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SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS:
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its sixteenth session

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I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. At its sixteenth session, the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) reviewed the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 and the preparations for INSTRAW's participation at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II.

2. The attention of the Economic and Social Council is drawn to the Board's conclusions (part VII).

II. STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

3. At its 1st meeting, the Board discussed the minutes of the informal session of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting, held in Beijing on 16 September 1995, and of the third session, held at INSTRAW headquarters on 17 February 1996, under item 4 of the provisional agenda, Professor Els Postel-Coster, Chairperson of the Committee, introduced the item. In considering it, the Board had before it document INSTRAW/BT/1996/CRP.4.

4. The Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee gave an overview of the main topics discussed, based on the conceptual framework prepared for the meeting.

5. The first topic considered was INSTRAW's research activities and clearing-house functions. Although both were important, it was pointed out that, owing to the Institute's limited staff and budget, the Institute should focus more on up-front research by establishing a network of qualified consultants and experts from academic institutions. Collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies would facilitate the process. That interaction would help to improve INSTRAW's visibility and contribution in its areas of expertise.

6. At its third session, the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed INSTRAW's work performance, administrative and financial situation and logistic requirements. It was agreed that special considerations for fund-raising mechanisms should be discussed by the Board. One innovative way could be the commercialization of advisory services - for example, a roster of research and training institutions and qualified individual experts who carried out activities on gender issues could be compiled, broken down by theme and region.

7. The Committee also discussed matters pertaining to internships and training programmes for INSTRAW staff members and programmes that the Institute could provide to external candidates, in accordance with its statute.

8. The Chairperson expressed the satisfaction of the Strategic Planning Committee with the work of the Acting Director and recommended her appointment as Director.

9. The representative of the regional commissions noted that, at its inception, the Strategic Planning Committee was composed of five members, the

fifth being a representative of the regional commissions in an ex officio capacity. She requested clarification on the current composition of the Committee, owing to the fact that the regional commissions had not been notified of any Committee meetings since 1994.

10. Both the Chairperson of the Committee and the Acting Director concurred with the representative of the regional commissions, and a chronological statement of facts was presented by the Acting Director.

11. The Board then proposed and elected the following new members of the Strategic Planning Committee, by acclamation:

President: Gail Saunders

Vice-President: Selma Acuner

Members: Esther Ashton

Noelie Kangoye

A representative of the regional commissions

12. Regarding the representation of the regional commissions, it was noted that the matter would be discussed with the current coordinator of the regional commissions, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

13. The ex officio member representing the host country requested that she be allowed to comment on the Strategic Planning Committee before the conclusion of the sixteenth session.

III. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR

14. At the 2nd meeting, under agenda item 5, the Acting Director of INSTRAW introduced her progress report on the implementation of the programme of INSTRAW activities concluding the biennium 1994-1995 and the matters related to the operations and functioning of the Institute (INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.2). The Board also had before it documents INSTRAW/BT/1996/INF/2-5.

15. The Acting Director outlined the activities undertaken by the Institute following the fifteenth session of the Board of Trustees (24-28 April 1995). She referred to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/45 of 27 July 1995, in which the Council took note of the report of the Board of Trustees on its fifteenth session. 1/

16. She referred to the Institute's participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women and the NGO Forum, held in Beijing, 4-15 September 1995, and introduced document INSTRAW/BT/1996/INF/2. She also referred to INSTRAW activities organized to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and introduced document INSTRAW/BT/1996/INF/3.

17. She made an analysis of the scope and meaning of the 1995 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, held on 2 and 3 November 1995, and pointed out certain elements for the Board to consider when discussing the fund-raising strategy in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.3 and Corr.1).

18. She also highlighted General Assembly resolution 50/163 of 22 December 1995, dealing with the substantive work of the Institute as described in the report of the Secretary-General (A/50/538), from which several comments were extracted for the consideration of the Board of Trustees. Resolution 50/162 of 22 December 1995, on the proposed merger of INSTRAW and UNIFEM, was also made available and commented on.

19. The Acting Director brought to the attention of the Board the Secretary-General's designation of Rosario Green as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues.

20. The representative of the regional commissions expressed the gratitude of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) for the substantive and financial contributions INSTRAW made to its statistics programme. She cited, in particular, the publication prepared jointly by INSTRAW, ECE, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and Statistics Sweden, entitled Women and Men in Europe and North America, and the study published jointly by INSTRAW and ECE, Time Use of Women in Europe and North America. She specified that the INSTRAW contributions should be reflected in the report.

21. In reply to the Board's request, the Acting Director presented a more comprehensive overview of the Institute's participation in the Conference on Women and the Forum. At the Conference, the Institute had held two special events, jointly organized with the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the Secretariat and with the financial contribution of the Swedish Environment Institute (SEI) and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA): one on women and natural resources management, and one on economic and political empowerment of women and the need for gender statistics.

22. Four panels were organized at the Forum on the following issues:

(a) Time-use statistics on recognition of women's and men's contributions, in cooperation with the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat;

(b) Women, water and environmental sanitation, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA);

(c) Economic and political empowerment of women, in collaboration with SEI and the SIDA;

(d) Media and communications for the advancement of women: models for a global reach, in collaboration with the Italian Association for Women in Development.

23. The incumbent President of the Board during the period under review, who had presided at both of the INSTRAW special events, stated that the Institute's impact at the Conference had been stronger than she had expected. The Institute had received commendations for the quality and the content of its presentations and press conferences, which were attended by a large public.

24. The Board congratulated INSTRAW for its successful participation in the Conference and inquired about the specific follow-up activities the Institute intended to undertake. The Acting Director informed the Board that INSTRAW was preparing a publication on the proceedings and recommendations emanating from those activities. The Institute would also analyse the petitions it had received in light of its programme of activities and in consultation with the regional commissions, according to regional priorities spelled out in the Platform for Action adopted at Beijing. 2/

25. In regard to the implementation of the Platform for Action set out in General Assembly resolution 50/203, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, United Nations Secretariat, briefed the Board on the actions taken by the Secretariat. She said that the Division would carefully monitor governmental activities to ensure full implementation of the Platform.

26. She also informed the Board that the Division for the Advancement of Women would coordinate the system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action, including the intergovernmental and inter-agency aspects.

27. In regard to the functions of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues, the Acting Director informed the Board that the Special Adviser had convened a plenary meeting in the second week of February 1996 with the heads of all the departments and focal points on women's issues of the United Nations system, with the objective of establishing possible means of responding, in a coordinated manner, to the Platform for Action. Three major groups of activities had been identified - namely, policy and research, operational activities, and improvement of the status of women in the United Nations.

28. The Board stressed the need to intensify its efforts to include a gender perspective and gender issues and analyses in the work of INSTRAW and in other United Nations agencies, since those concepts were not commonly known in many countries.

29. The Board reiterated that in order to promote gender concerns, it was important to consider methodology, which should focus not only on women but also on the relation of women and men. She suggested that the Institute incorporate that concern in its reports and in the focus of its activities.

30. The Acting Director commented that translating complex concepts which were condensed in one word, as in the case of "gender" or "empowerment", required adequate understanding of the cultural, economic, religious, social and political circumstances of different countries.

31. The Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women stated that "gender" was an accepted term in the United Nations and that the concept and the

recommendations of the Conference on Women would remain on paper unless INSTRAW, UNIFEM, the Division and their corresponding policy-making organs brought them to life.

32. The representative of the regional commissions stressed the need to analyse the comparative advantages of the different agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and the need to identify the competitive advantage of INSTRAW. She also stressed the need to establish policy coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the Platform for Action and the regional plans of action. She stated that the current session could provide an opportunity to initiate such coordination.

33. She also suggested that, under their mandates, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the regional commissions dealt with Governments and that the Institute's catalytic role was crucial in coordinating the work of academic institutions, research centres and non-governmental organizations, particularly those working on gender issues.

34. The Acting Director referred to the Institute's relationship with the regional commissions, stating the importance of continuing and strengthening the cooperation to ensure that regional specificities were taken into account in the Institute's programme of work. She said that, while the Institute's proposed programme budget allowed for limited collaboration with the regional commissions, the question should be reflected upon in the forthcoming deliberations.

35. The Board requested the Acting Director to explain how the Institute envisaged carrying out its planned activities, particularly with regard to administrative matters. She specifically referred to some of the pending issues relating to the post of Chief Administrative Officer and other vacant posts. The representative of the Under-Secretary General for the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development noted the concern of the Board members about the post of the Chief Administrative Officer and wished to assure the Board that steps were being taken by the administration to rectify the situation without delay.

36. The Acting Director explained that the issues were directly related to the scope of her mandate and the level of responsibility she had assumed at INSTRAW. She had full responsibility, but not full authority. She explained that, while the Director of the Institute had the delegation of authority of the Secretary-General, her contractual situation with INSTRAW was unique and did not give her the authority to take certain actions. Another consequence of the situation was the difficulty of recruiting qualified personnel to fill the vacant posts at the Institute.

37. The Board also sought information on the INSTRAW bibliographic database, mailing list and roster of experts. The Acting Director informed the Board that, in their current form, those systems could only be used to a limited extent as a guide for establishing contacts with relevant research centres and institutions. The limitations of the databases had also hindered the Institute from identifying competent consultants.

38. The Board noted the active participation of INSTRAW in the host country. She welcomed the initiative and inquired about how to enlarge the scope of influence for the benefit of other developing countries. The Acting Director made clear that those activities were undertaken on an experimental basis and had no financial implications for the Institute. The reactions received from local participants were quite encouraging, and INSTRAW was currently preparing a consolidated report to be submitted to the Board at its next session, in the hope of undertaking similar activities in other countries in collaboration with the regional commissions and with the support of relevant institutions.

39. The Acting Director emphasized the importance of inter-agency collaboration. She referred to the Secretary-General's initiative in establishing a United Nations staff college at the International Training Centre (ITC) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) at Turin. The representative of the Centre explained the primary goal and objectives of the five-year project: to help the organization better meet the current and diverse demands placed on it in matters relating to peace and security and humanitarian and human rights affairs; to help the United Nations system to meet the new and dramatic challenges of the future; to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the system partners; and to help the United Nations organization to meet the calls for reform, accountability and flexibility. In terms of the audience, two closely related but distinct groups had been identified - namely, the staff of the United Nations system at all levels, and selected national partners involved in United Nations system activities.

40. Based on a research and needs analysis, the curricula being developed addressed peace-keeping, peacemaking, and peace-building; conflict resolution and crisis management; development management and development studies; governance, democracy and human rights; new training methodologies and technologies; and the management and development of human resources.

41. The representative of the ILO/ITC stressed the importance of continuing collaboration with INSTRAW to ensure that the gender dimension was fully integrated into the preparation of the curricula. The project intended to use innovative training methodologies to improve its outreach, and she therefore raised the possibility of installing a video conferencing system between INSTRAW and the Centre.

IV. NETWORKING OF FOCAL POINTS

42. At its 3rd meeting, on 20 February 1996, the Board considered agenda item 6, on the networking of focal points.

43. In discussing the agenda item, the Board had before it the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 (INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.3 and Corr.1), two conference room papers (INSTRAW/BT/1996/CRP.1 and Add.1, INSTRAW/BT/1996/CRP.6) and document INSTRAW/BT/1996/INF.6. The Coordinator for the research and training programme of INSTRAW gave a brief overview of the elements that should be taken into account when networking and INSTRAW's working relations with the focal points were discussed.

44. She identified some of the factors that affected the level and quality of working relations between INSTRAW and its focal points. She referred to the facts, among others, that the focal points covered a variety of interests and working objectives, that they had different degrees of access to the new information and communication technologies, and that some had fewer financial resources than others.

45. She recalled that, in an effort to strengthen the network of focal points, some proposals had been presented to the Board at its thirteenth and fifteenth sessions, but owing to the financial situation of the Institute, significant allocation of funds could not be provided for those endeavours. Moreover, some suggestions had been included in the proposed programme budget of INSTRAW for 1996-1997 for strengthening INSTRAW cooperation with the focal points. She stated that, in order to make full use of the network, INSTRAW, together with the Board, must analyse the whole structure and the proposed strategies prepared by INSTRAW.

46. During the discussion that followed, the Board stressed the importance of providing clear guidance on the role of the focal points. The Acting Director mentioned that that was, indeed, one of the issues that had been discussed by the Strategic Planning Committee at the Women's Conference. The incumbent President of the Board at that time, who had attended the meeting with focal points at the Conference, informed the Board of the limitations expressed by the focal points in improving their relationship with INSTRAW. Among others, they strongly emphasized the need to have INSTRAW documents translated into other languages in order to make them useful for international networking.

47. Several recommendations were forwarded by the Board and by the representative of the regional commissions on enhancing INSTRAW's working relations with the focal points. The Board stressed the importance of preparing a brochure defining the functions of a focal point and the mutual collaboration involved. It was also recommended that INSTRAW should encourage the focal points to attend the activities of INSTRAW held in their respective regions, which could provide them with an opportunity to develop some common activities. The representative of the ILO/ITC endorsed that view, saying that INSTRAW could consider inviting focal points to the regional seminars where INSTRAW training packages were tested as a way of familiarizing them with INSTRAW materials, which they could, in turn, help to disseminate.

48. In relation to the proposal to provide seed money to selected focal points, the Acting Director made it clear that the selection would be based on proposals submitted by the focal points. INSTRAW would establish guidelines for submission of the proposals based on the guidelines of INSTRAW's research and training framework and would take due consideration of regional priorities spelled out by the regional commissions. She requested the Board to consider allocating additional funds to the seed money project in order to broaden the number of focal points that could benefit from the project, to which the Board agreed.

49. Regarding a suggestion to create an INSTRAW newsletter for focal points or a permanent section in INSTRAW News, the staff member of the Institute responsible for the theme noted that the latter had been tried in the past but

that there had been difficulties in securing contributions from the focal points for that section in the newsletter.

50. Referring to the request address to INSTRAW by the Institute of Arab-American Women (IAAW), suggesting possible collaboration with INSTRAW, the Board was informed of the previous contacts that the Institute had made with INSTRAW. More specifically, the Acting Director of INSTRAW had been invited as guest speaker to the IAAW conference held in New York in January 1996, on the theme After Beijing. The Acting Director said that INSTRAW would study the possibility of collaborating with IAAW.

51. In introducing a document containing the nomination from the Government of Austria of the Ministry of Women's Affairs of Austria as a focal point, the Acting Director informed the Board that although Austria was not a regular donor to INSTRAW, the Government had contributed in 1995 and had pledged a contribution for 1996. The Board approved by acclamation the nomination and welcomed the Ministry as a new INSTRAW focal point.

52. Regarding the request from a Russian non-governmental organization interested in becoming a focal point, the Board recommended that the Institute follow up on the request and submit the relevant documents to the Board at its next session.

53. On another matter, the representative of the ILO/ITC commended INSTRAW's training package on gender statistics, which were being finalized, and suggested that INSTRAW discuss with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the possibility of joint use of the material for the training package on population that the Centre was preparing for UNFPA. The Board welcomed that initiative.

V. EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

54. At its 3rd meeting, on 20 and 21 February 1996, under agenda item 7, the Board discussed the substantive elements of the proposed programme elements and the corresponding budgetary allocations for the subprogramme on economic and political empowerment of women, under agenda item 8. The Board had before it the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.3 and Corr.1 and 2) and documents INSTRAW/BT/1996/CRP.2, CRP.3 and CRP.6.

55. In introducing the question the Coordinator for the research and training programme of INSTRAW first referred to document INSTRAW/BT/1996/CRP.2, on economic integration and women's development prospects in Latin America and the Caribbean, which provided a more elaborate description of a proposal to conduct a research study on the topic, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997. The Coordinator stated that the major objectives of the proposed research study were to evaluate the scope of gender differentiation under the system of export-processing zones; to evaluate the impact of the zones on women's development prospects; and finally to understand the overall impact of the structural changes arising from free trade agreements on women's economic and political empowerment processes. The project was originally elaborated to include Asia and the Pacific, but, owing to financial limitations, only the

Latin America and Caribbean region has been considered, as a first stage, in the proposed budget.

56. Also proposed under the subprogramme on the empowerment of women was the organization of an international campaign to improve women's access to credit, described in document INSTRAW/BT/1996/CRP.3. The Coordinator explained the rationale behind the proposal and its relevance to the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996) and the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, held in 1995. She said that since the proposal entailed a new way of promoting women's economic empowerment and since the organization and realization of the campaign required close collaboration with other United Nations agencies and of obtaining funds from outside the INSTRAW core budget, the Board should consider both the organizational and the financial possibilities of such a campaign. The Board members expressed concern about the complexities of the field of study, which required specific expertise in the field.

57. During the discussion, the Board noted the importance of the proposed research on the impact of economic integration on women's development prospects and the relevant human rights issues, particularly in certain developing regions facing economic structural change, such as Latin America and the Caribbean.

58. However, the Board members also expressed some concerns about conceptualization of the proposals, in particular those of human rights that had not been previously incorporated into the Institute's general activities, particularly in view of the fact that a number of agencies had already done or were currently doing work on the subject. Given the complexity of the issue, the Board members thought that INSTRAW should reformulate some of the proposals to be discussed at the next session of the Board. Some Board members also pointed out that huge compilations of data and information on the issue already existed in most countries, particularly in Asia. The importance of collecting and integrating those materials in the design of a research methodology for the programme element was stressed. Furthermore, concerns were expressed about the geographical coverage of the study, specifically the selection and number of countries involved in the research. A Board member suggested that INSTRAW might wish to focus more on African countries for that particular research activity and benefit from the local expertise available in the region.

VI. PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

59. At the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 20 and 21 February 1996, under agenda item 7, the Acting Director presented the proposed programme budget for INSTRAW for the biennium 1996-1997 for the consideration of the Board. The Board had before it the following documents:

(a) INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.3 and Corr.1 and 2;

(b) INSTRAW/BT/1996/CRP.1;

(c) INSTRAW/BT/1996/CRP.5;

(d) INSTRAW/BT/1996/CRP.6;

(e) INSTRAW/BT/1996/INF/6.

60. The Acting Director stated that it was relevant to note that the Institute had not escaped the financial difficulties that were affecting the United Nations system at large. Those difficulties had compelled INSTRAW to adhere to serious restrictions while elaborating its programme budget for the biennium. On the basis of current income, the budget that was being proposed envisaged the utilization of the current balance in the Trust Fund plus the income from 1996, thus leaving the income for 1997 as a reserve for the next biennium.

61. To facilitate the analysis of the item, the Acting Director proposed that comments on document INSTRAW/BT/1996/CRP.5, "Inter-agency cooperation between INSTRAW and bodies and agencies of the United Nations system", be expressed.

62. The representative of the International Training Centre (ITC) of the ILO referred to the cooperation between INSTRAW and the Centre, which has produced, inter alia, important training packages: Women, Water Supply and Sanitation (1987, updated in 1991); Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy (1990); and, Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development (1995). She stated that the training packages were listed in the Centre's publication catalogue and suggested that INSTRAW should include the titles in its research publications and training materials on the internet. To expand the promotion of the material, she suggested a two-pronged approach: selling the packages to relevant environmental institutions, and utilizing the packages in regional and national training seminars.

63. She referred to the preliminary steps jointly undertaken by INSTRAW and the ILO/ITC to organize a subregional training seminar on women, environmental management and sustainable development, initially scheduled for the autumn of 1996, for those countries with economies in transition.

64. She mentioned that the Centre, in cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights, was in the process of revising a manual entitled Human Rights Reporting, prepared in 1990. As requested in para. 334 of the Platform For Action, 3/ she invited INSTRAW to contribute suggestions for incorporating the gender dimension in the revised manual. She also requested that the Division for the Advancement of Women be invited to contribute.

65. The Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women explained that the Division was the functional organ of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. The Director also welcomed INSTRAW's findings on women and the media, which she hoped would be made available to the Commission at its fortieth session where the topic would be a main item. She spoke about the Division's existing page on the web site created for the Fourth World Conference on Women and proposed that it be expanded and financed, in collaboration with INSTRAW and UNIFEM. The Acting Director stated that in order to attend to the expenses of that inter-agency activity, the Institute would certainly consider raising extrabudgetary funds.

66. In reference to the comparative advantage of each agency, the representative of the regional commissions stated that it was necessary to streamline priorities, owing to the financial crisis faced by the United Nations system. She mentioned that each region had its own consultation mechanism in the form of regional conferences and that the ECLAC region was preparing the next one for 1997. Such an intergovernmental forum constituted an appropriate occasion for INSTRAW to improve its visibility and relations with member States. She stressed that INSTRAW could use the regional commissions to monitor regional activities closely. She mentioned the possibility of developing joint programmes and projects between INSTRAW and the regional commissions, as had been done in the case of ECE's project on entrepreneurship and credit for countries with economies in transition, which could undoubtedly draw on the Institute's programme on credit.

67. The Ambassador of Ecuador to the Dominican Republic, attending in an observer capacity as representative of a member State, expressed his appreciation and paid his respects to the former and the incumbent Presidents of the Board. He wanted to relay his Government's interest in the Institute's activities relating to the development programmes and the status of women in his country. In addition, he announced that he would formally present to INSTRAW an invitation to expand its presence and influence in some of his Government's programmes. He also mentioned the activities of the Instituto Ecuatoriano de Investigación y Capacitación de la Mujer (IECAIM) and the catalytic role of local non-governmental organizations in the scope of the civil society. He mentioned that the Institute's focal point in Ecuador was organizing a national seminar on women and the use of natural resources, to be held in the autumn of 1996, and would welcome the Institute's substantive and financial contribution when funds were available.

68. The Board reiterated the recommendation adopted at its fifteenth session on the establishment of the Institute's web site to promote the Institute's activities and at the same time be a mechanism to obtain research material and publications from a large number of institutions. The Board also referred to the possibility of submitting a specific project proposal to the European Union for funding.

69. The Acting Administrative Officer stated that in relation to the Board's recommendation at its fifteenth session regarding the purchase of the equipment necessary to install e-mail and the internet at INSTRAW, the installation and the training of INSTRAW staff would be completed by the end of March 1996.

70. After those general considerations, the Acting Director drew the attention of the Board to part I of document INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.3, containing substantive considerations and general principles; financial considerations; resource and budget assumptions and elements for a fund-raising strategy, which encompassed the framework of the Institute's programme budget.

71. She then submitted part II of the above-mentioned document, for the consideration of the Board, regarding the Institute's policy-making organ, the Board of Trustees, and its interaction with INSTRAW and with the Institute's management. The analysis of the role of the Strategic Planning Committee was summarized in document INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.4/Add.1.

72. Regarding the disposition of General Assembly resolution 50/163 on the Institute's reporting to both the Second and the Third Committees of the General Assembly, she requested a more active interaction between the members of the Board and their respective Governments. Board members could brief their Governments and, whenever possible, their respective permanent missions in New York and Geneva on INSTRAW's activities. That approach would facilitate a better understanding of the Institute's work and enhance any action on fund-raising activities.

73. Several arguments and considerations were formulated. The Board agreed that it could offer advice to the Director of INSTRAW on fund-raising modalities. However, it could not engage itself in any specific activity. The Board agreed that in order to have a comprehensive fund-raising strategy, a clear set of guidelines must be prepared by the Director. The Board approved the proposal of engaging a consultant/specialist to prepare the strategy.

74. The Board pointed out that the Director's main responsibility was fund-raising, not handling the Institute's day-to-day activities. It was thus recommended that the position of Deputy Director be re-established. That official would undertake the substantive and managerial tasks of the Institute, under the guidance of the Director.

75. The Board recommended that additional measures be considered, such as selling advisory services, research data and publications, and developing income-generating activities, as stipulated in article VI.6 of the Institute's Statute.

76. The Board considered the matter of the possible representation on the Board of countries in transition and concluded that it was not an appropriate time for such a decision. Certain mechanisms could be envisaged to broaden the Institute's scope of influence, such as promoting focal points networking in the area.

77. The Acting Director, following the reflections of the policy-making organ, pointed out that, in order to secure the continuity and comparative advantage of its work programme, the Institute should establish a more dynamic interaction with the regional commissions. To promote the Institute's activities and presence, a possible option could be the opening of liaison offices in the different regions.

78. The Board noted the increase in the budget allocation provided to the unit in charge of the executive direction and management programme of activities. The Acting Director explained that the increase was due to the upgrading of one post and the redeployment of other posts to the unit, which were assigned to the sub-unit on documentation, placed under the direct supervision of the Director.

79. The staff configuration approved for the previous biennium reflected a distribution of functions no longer applicable to the current needs of the Institute. The principle behind the redeployment of posts from one unit to another in the organizational chart was to reflect correctly the functions pertaining and specific to the different units in order to enable the Institute to carry out its work programme.

80. A Board member stated that the Institute has to strive to implement long-term solutions to staffing, going beyond the interim problems and short-term solutions.

81. The Acting Director expressed appreciation for the performance of the Liaison Office in New York. In reply to the Board's inquiries in reference to the rental expenses in New York, the Acting Director explained that rental space was not cheaper in New York. She mentioned the precariousness of the office's conditions, particularly its limited space.

82. She brought to the attention of the Board the fact that the Liaison Office, under its current composition, was not able to participate in all of the meetings and activities - much less the inter-agency meetings - convened at the level of Director or head-of-organization. Some of the meetings were very important, particularly when decisions were being made regarding the interaction of the agencies and the complementarity of programmes and coordination mechanisms. The Professional staff assigned to the Liaison Office could attend only some of the meetings.

83. In response, the Board endorsed the strengthening of the Liaison Office, by upgrading a Professional post from P-3 to P-4 and re-deploying a P-2 post from Santo Domingo to New York.

84. Regarding the lack of space at the Liaison Office, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women offered the use of the conference room of the Division, whenever required, if available.

85. The representative of the regional commissions stated that the regional commissions' Liaison Office in New York had a well-equipped office and a very good reference library which INSTRAW was welcome to use. She would contact the liaison staff in order to brief them on the matter.

86. The Acting Director mentioned some of the concerns expressed by member States regarding the INSTRAW staffing table and the imbalance between the number of Professionals and General Service posts. She recalled the lengthy discussions already held by the Board at its fifteenth session and the recommendations adopted. In compliance with those recommendations, the draft budget programme presented to the United Nations Controller, in December 1995, contained a proposal concerning the national officer category which unfortunately was not approved. Several observations were made on the matter. On the question of upgrading General Service posts to the Professional level, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women explained that, while the situation may have already caused a certain level of uncertainty and anxiety to the INSTRAW staff, it was not the result of an arbitrary decision, because the United Nations Secretariat had followed a well-established standard rule of classification which affected the staffing arrangements of the entire system.

87. In the presentation of the Institute's proposed activities in research and training and in information, communication and documentation for the biennium 1996-1997, the Institute's Coordinator for Research and Training explained that the rationale behind the research and training proposal was based on recommendations made by the Board of Trustees at its fifteenth session and by

the Strategic Planning Committee at its informal meeting in Beijing. It also incorporated recommendations from recently held United Nations international conferences, in particular, those of the Beijing Platform for Action.

88. She gave a concise description of the objectives and methodologies in each of the programme elements contained in the proposed work programme.

89. She presented other activities related to research and training, including the preparations for an international research and training conference on gender issues which was approved by the Board at its fifteenth session, to be hosted by ILO/ITC in 1997. The representative of the ILO outlined the focus of the conference and stated that fund-raising would be undertaken jointly. The Institute's participation in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II (Istanbul, June 1996) was welcomed by the Board. The Coordinator asked the Board to consider financial and practical aspects of those activities in the proposed programme budget.

90. She also mentioned that INSTRAW, in its proposed substantive work programme, increasingly included the concept of human rights. She emphasized that the rights in question would be contained in international governance, protocols, and conventions that were legally binding on those States that ratified or acceded to them. By calling attention to human rights, INSTRAW sought to contribute to both the debate on the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and the development of mechanisms for incorporating a gender perspective into the human rights work of the United Nations. The issue was addressed under agenda item 8.

91. In reference to the information, communication and documentation unit, she mentioned that although the unit appears as a separate entity, the scope of its activities was defined within the framework of executive direction and the research and training unit.

92. One of the important activities that INSTRAW proposed for the coming biennium was to formulate a public relations strategy to increase its visibility and the outreach of its research and training work. That also included improving and diversifying the in-house production of INSTRAW publications and translating them into French and Spanish.

93. The Board expressed concern that African countries were somehow neglected in the scope of the research and training activities of INSTRAW. The Board reiterated the importance of integrating the concept of gender - that is, focusing on both women and men - into the methodologies designed for the proposed research and training activities.

94. The Acting Director noted that a gender perspective was implicit in all INSTRAW programmes but that INSTRAW focused on women because they were its main object of concern.

95. In response to the Board's request for comments on the Institute's proposed training activities and at the request of the Acting Director, staff members provided information on the training components of specific programmes.

96. In considering the proposed activities in research and training and in information, communication and documentation, the Board deliberated on each topic, following the chronological presentation in document INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.3.

97. In the programme on research and training, under subprogramme one, Economic and political empowerment of women, the Board discussed and approved the two programme elements. The first, on the impact of economic integration on women's development prospects in Latin America and the Caribbean, was discussed in conjunction with agenda item 8. The Board decided that the programme element should be reformulated, taking into account the relevant work and studies that were already available. It also decided that the proposal should be rejected in the proposed programme budget, along with the other proposed projects subject to outside funding. In addition, the Board encouraged INSTRAW to hold consultations with the agencies/organizations that were doing some work on the topic.

98. Regarding the proposal to prepare a human rights handbook (included in annex II of INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.3), the Board decided to defer its consideration.

99. On the second programme element discussed under subprogramme one, on women in decision-making and leadership, the Board raised questions on the contents of the proposed activities and the research methodology to be applied. The Board was of the opinion that INSTRAW must be at the forefront in terms of developing innovative methodologies and on improving women's access to power. The traditional approach of focusing only on women must be changed, in view of the fact that the barriers and problems restraining women's participation in decision-making and leadership involved power relations between the sexes. The Board stressed the importance of comparing the access of women and of men to power, which should be considered when designing the research methodology. The Board approved the budget allocations for the programme element.

100. Several proposals were formulated regarding the inclusion of the girl-child in parts of the Institute's work programme, in accordance with paragraph 334 of the Platform for Action.

101. All programme elements contained in subprogramme two, Women, environment and sustainable development, were approved by the Board. In addition, the Board decided that the training package, Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development, should be translated into Spanish and French and that funds should be allocated for that purpose.

102. The Board mentioned that in-kind contributions of translation and printing services could be one way of attending to the matter and at the same time, could facilitate fund-raising. The Acting Director, after a detailed explanation, requested the approval of the Board to hire a trilingual secretary to attend to the Institute's day-to-day translation needs of documents and correspondence and for a part-time in-house translator. The Board gave its approval.

103. All programme elements contained in subprogramme three, Women, media and communications, were approved by the Board.

104. All programme elements in subprogramme four, Statistics and indicators on gender issues, and subprogramme five, Other activities related to research and training, were approved by the Board.

105. In relation to the proposed activities in the programme on information, communication and documentation, the Board sought clarification on certain matters. The Acting Director provided general comments, complemented by the staff member assigned to the unit.

106. Regarding proposed activities in the programme on administrative and programme support, the Board requested clarification on an item that appeared in tables 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the proposed programme budget (INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.3 - namely, "temporary posts". The Acting Administrative Officer explained that INSTRAW had no permanent posts, since, according to its Statute, all posts were designed to be covered by the approved biennial budget and were, therefore, of a temporary nature.

107. The Board requested explanations about the "rental/maintenance of premises in Santo Domingo", in view of the fact that to their understanding, the building and the premises were donated by the Government of the Dominican Republic. The Acting Director answered that, in fact, the building and the premises were donated to INSTRAW at the moment of signing the Host Country Agreement. The rental expenditures were not related to INSTRAW's headquarters but corresponded to rental expenses of the Liaison Office in New York. Consequently the item should read: "rental of equipment and maintenance of premises". Similar amendments would be reflected in the applicable places, as explained in paragraph 97 of the proposed programme budget.

108. All programme elements of subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the unit were approved by the Board.

109. The Board also reviewed the proposed programme activities that were subject to outside funding. All the proposals were approved by the Board and the following observations were made:

(a) With reference to subprogramme 1 of the programme on research and training, Economic and political empowerment, regarding a yearbook on women's human rights, the Board suggested the proposal be reformulated in line with the general comments made by the Board during the discussion on the empowerment of women;

(b) Regarding the selection of an African country for the proposed study on time-use survey methodology, the Board stated it would discuss the project and submit concrete suggestions.

110. After approving the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, the President of the Board highlighted the Board's concerns with the staffing situation of the Institute. She pointed out that at its fifteenth session the Board had recommended that vacant posts be filled as quickly as possible. Asked to comment on the matter, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women explained that the vacancies fell under the Acting Director's delegation of authority given to her by the Secretary-General, as stipulated in INSTRAW's

Statute and in accordance with the United Nations corresponding rules and regulations.

111. Concerning the staffing configuration and other matters, the Board inquired about the proposal to abolish five General Service posts. The Acting Director explained that the diminishing voluntary contributions, the comments made by donors at the Pledging Conferences, and the restructuring requests formulated in several General Assembly resolutions constituted the elements of the analysis. Furthermore, the Acting Director explained that the evaluation conducted on INSTRAW in February 1991, commissioned by the foreign ministries of Norway, the Netherlands and Finland, highlighted the imbalance of the Institute's staffing table, where the majority of posts were in the General Service category. She recalled several considerations contained in her mission report on the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities for the year 1996, distributed to Board members for their information.

112. The Acting Director pointed out that an exercise on redeployment and redefinition of post functions had been undertaken before the number of posts that could be abolished without hampering the Institute's delivery capacity was determined. It was concluded that several complementary functions could be carried out by one, instead of two, persons. Before submitting the proposal, the Acting Director had carefully considered its effect, in order to make an objective decision within the parameters of efficiency required by the Board and the donors.

113. The Acting Director requested the Board to agree to a proposal incorporating a compensatory mechanism for the affected staff members. If such a proposal were accepted by the Board, a request to the United Nations Secretariat would be formulated under the same parameters as the consultation presented in November 1995 - that is, one month compensatory salary for staff working at INSTRAW less than three years and three months compensatory salary to those engaged with INSTRAW for more than three years.

114. The Board then approved the abolishment of the five posts and strongly recommended that the staff members be compensated according to the Acting Director's proposal.

115. The Acting Director informed the Board on several INSTRAW staff, classified in the General Service category who had been performing functions requiring a higher level of responsibility than those inherent in their posts. She recalled that the Board recommended at its fifteenth session that the Institute seek the advice of the Office of Human Resources and Management in order to apply the national officer category to three posts at INSTRAW. She further observed that the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts did not agree with the proposal.

116. The Acting Administrative Officer explained that, in accordance with INSTRAW's statute, its staff were recruited under fixed-term appointments and were limited to service with the Institute. Therefore, INSTRAW staff were considered external candidates and, as such, were not eligible to take the G-to-P examinations to convert from the General Service to the Professional category.

117. The representative of the Under-Secretary-General for the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development stated that the United Nations system provided for a mechanism through which General Service staff could opt for conversion to the Professional category through competitive examination (G-to-P exams). She noted that new guidelines were set forth in the Secretary-General's Bulletin No. 282 of 5 January 1996, on special measures which enable women at the Secretariat holding General Service posts to convert to the Professional category. The Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women asked to be provided with adequate information on the Institute's case and offered to present the issue to the corresponding office in the Office of Human Resources Management for its consideration, provided the Board agreed. In reference to the National Officer category, she explained that in the United Nations system it applied only at the United Nations Information Centres, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other agencies of the system, such as UNICEF.

118. The process and procedures related to advertising vacancy announcements and recruitment were discussed in detail.

119. The Board asked to take part in the process of defining adequate profiles for the different vacancies, particularly in light of the Institute's need for research and training expertise. The Board agreed to assist the Acting Director in that task.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

A. Overall programme of action for INSTRAW

120. The Board expressed its satisfaction with the work undertaken by the Institute in the implementation of its work programme of the 1994-1995 biennium. The Board welcomed the results of INSTRAW's participation at the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Board commended INSTRAW's active participation in the preparatory process for the Fourth World Conference on Women and in the Conference itself. Moreover, the Board commended the Acting Director and the staff at large for their dedication and accomplishments, despite the difficulties faced during the past years.

121. The Board took note with satisfaction of General Assembly resolution 50/163, regarding the Institute's substantive programme of work, and took note of the content of resolution 50/162. Furthermore, the Board also took note of resolution 50/203, on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

122. The Board noted with appreciation that, in compliance with resolution 50/163, INSTRAW would start reporting to the Second Committee of the General Assembly on agenda items relating to the Institute's research and training activities.

123. The Board took note of the report and recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee at its third meeting, held on 17 February 1996.

124. The Board welcomed the designation of Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, as the Secretary-General's Special Representative to INSTRAW.

125. The Board welcomed the designation of Rosario Green as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues, and requested INSTRAW to establish close collaboration with her office.

126. The Board also congratulated Angela King on her appointment as Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

127. The Board expressed its appreciation to Ji Chaozhu, Under-Secretary-General, Department for Development Support and Management Services, Guido Bertucci and the Executive Officer for their continuous support provided to the Institute.

128. The Board welcomed INSTRAW's participation in the preparatory activities for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II, to be held in Istanbul, in June 1996, and recommended that considerations on the different stages of a woman's life cycle be raised at the Conference, particularly those relating to the elderly.

129. The Board stated that the Institute's programme of work should continue to focus on and establish priorities in areas where INSTRAW has already acquired expertise - areas such as the political and economic empowerment of women; statistics and indicators in gender issues; natural resources and sustainable development; water and waste management; renewable sources of energy; access to credit; women and the media; and, issues relating to different population groups, especially the elderly and displaced, refugees and migrant women. It was also suggested that the girl-child should be included as a priority area.

130. The Board requested that INSTRAW update its communication technologies in order to benefit from the internet and e-mail. To that end, it was suggested that INSTRAW should make efforts to create and participate in the worldwide-web (WWW).

131. The Board stressed the importance of strengthening communications and networking mechanisms between INSTRAW and its focal points and suggested that seed money allocated for the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 be increased to expand the promotion of joint activities.

132. The Board reiterated the need for INSTRAW to find effective ways of distributing its publications in order to make the Institute more visible.

133. The Board recommended strengthening the collaboration between INSTRAW, the regional commissions and the Division for the Advancement of Women, particularly in matters related to the implementation of the recommendations of the Beijing Platform for Action at the regional level. The Board accepted, with appreciation, the regional commissions' offer to cooperate in executing joint regional programmes with INSTRAW.

134. The Board recommended that, in compliance with its research and training mandate, INSTRAW should undertake steps to address the 12 critical areas of concern on the Beijing Platform for Action relevant to its research and training programme. The Board also acknowledged INSTRAW contribution into the system-wide medium-term plan, 1996-2001, and to the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Task Force on Women.

135. The Board expressed its satisfaction with the close cooperation between INSTRAW and the International Training Centre of the ILO and with the joint training seminars envisaged for 1996. The Board took note of the decision of the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations staff college at the ILO-Turin Centre and concurred with the recommendation of the Director of the Centre to apply INSTRAW's research and training expertise on gender issues in the preparation of the college's training materials.

B. Operational and budgetary issues

136. The Board unanimously and strongly recommended that the Acting Director be appointed Director at the D-2 level, in the most expeditious manner, for the duration of the period covered by the approved programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

137. The Board also approved and strongly recommended that the contracts of the Institute's staff, based on their merits, be extended until the end of the biennium 1996-1997.

138. The Board recommended that the functions of the Deputy Director be reinstated at the D-1 level. The new functions will include regular substantive, managerial and supervisory tasks, as required for the overall operations of the Institute, and the implementation of the programme of activities. The reinstatement of the original post did not have financial implications for the overall budget approved by the Board for the 1996-1997 biennium.

139. The Board approved the new staffing configuration of the Administration Unit, which introduced the reclassification of the post of Chief Administrative Officer from the P-5 to the P-3 level. The Board also reiterated its serious concern with the fact that the issue of the former Chief Administrative Officer had not yet been resolved.

140. The Board recommended that INSTRAW undertake the necessary consultations with the corresponding authorities in the United Nations system to provide separation indemnity, as appropriate, to those staff members who would be leaving the Institute as a result of the abolition of five General Service posts.

141. The Board decided that the implementation of programme element 1.1, Impact of economic integration of women's development prospects in Latin America and the Caribbean, be subjected to availability of external funding and decided to defer the funds originally allocated to the programme towards, inter alia:

(a) Translation of the training package on women, environmental management and sustainable development into French and Spanish;

(b) Adequate allocation to contract the services of French and Spanish translators, as required, for INSTRAW general correspondence, material and documents;

(c) Adequate allocation to provide material and equipment to the documentation sub-unit: a transparency projector, ambulatory displayer, microfiche etc.;

(d) Adequate allocation for the acquisition of bibliographical research material;

(e) Provisions to implement output 1 under project analysis of the policy implications of measuring and valuing unpaid work, as reflected in paragraph 7 of annex II, INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.3;

(f) Adequate allocations to enable INSTRAW's participation and access to communications technologies;

(g) A modest increase in the original allocation under consultancy services of the Executive Direction and Management so as to secure the best possible expertise for the engagement and related costs of a specialist in fund-raising.

142. The Board recommended the strengthening of the INSTRAW Liaison Office in New York with the redeployment of the P-2 Programme Officer from the Unit of Information, Communication and Documentation.

143. The Board made a thorough evaluation of the financial status of the Institute's reserves. In view of the low level of contributions registered during the past biennium, the Board emphasized the Institute's urgent need to make an active and strong fund-raising effort, to ensure an adequate flow of contributions to its Trust Fund. To that end, the Board authorized the Acting Director to engage the services of a highly qualified consultant to define and design fund-raising strategies to be carried out by the Institute's Director.

144. The Board took note with appreciation of the report on the financial and budgetary status of the Institute and approved the proposed programme budget contained in INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.3, Corr.1 and 2, as amended during the session.

VIII. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

145. The sixteenth session of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) was held at the Institute's headquarters in Santo Domingo from 19 to 23 February 1996. The Board held seven meetings.

146. The session was opened by the President of the Board, Professor Els Postel-Coster. She welcomed all the Board members, specially the new member, Esther M. Ashton, the ex officio members, the distinguished observers representing member States and representatives of the agencies within and outside the United Nations system. She expressed the Board's condolences to the families of the victims of the tragic airplane accident that had taken place near Puerto Plata on 6 February 1996.

147. The President informed the Board that the Secretary-General had designated as his Special Representative Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. Mr. Desai was not able to attend, for financial reasons, but he had designated Angela King, Director of the Division for the Advancement Women, as his representative. On behalf of the Board, she also expressed INSTRAW's thanks to Ji Chaozhu, Under-Secretary-General, Department for Development Support and Management Services, and representative of the Secretary-General to the Board in past sessions, for his active support of INSTRAW, and to Guido Bertucci and Hanifa Mezoui. The President pointed out that Rosario Green, Special Political Adviser to the Secretary-General and his Adviser on Gender Issues, had been invited to the sixteenth session of the Board but had not been able to attend.

148. The President explained that during the course of 1995, the Institute had taken part in three major United Nations events; had published an impressive number of books, pamphlets, flyers and posters and two issues of INSTRAW News; had organized a number of special events, panels and press conferences; and had established new contacts. She pointed out that all of the activities have been achieved in spite of vacancies in practically all high-level posts.

149. The President of the Board said that INSTRAW's visibility had improved. She pointed out that the financial situation had remained sound and that new donors had recently shown interest in the work of the Institute. She expressed her gratitude to the staff and to the Acting Director for all the tasks she had undertaken and completed since her appointment.

150. The representative of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, Ms. King, then addressed the Board and pointed out that the United Nations continued to favour a strong and productive INSTRAW, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/163 of 22 December 1995, and that the Department was ready to assist the Institute in responding to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. 2/ She explained that the Fourth World Conference on Women had been very ambitious as regards programmes designated to mainstream gender perspectives throughout the United Nations, its system of organizations, Governments and civil society.

151. She highlighted the roles of the Division for the Advancement of Women (paras. 327-328 of the Platform for Action), of INSTRAW (para. 334) and of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (para. 335), which were to ensure that the mainstreaming of gender issues took place by policy analysis, research, training, advocacy and operational activities for the implementation of the Platform for Action.

152. She also commended the Acting Director and the Institute's staff for their work.

153. The representative of the host country, Gloria Milán Lugo, Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, and representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the members of the Board of Trustees and all other international representatives to the Dominican Republic.

154. She highlighted INSTRAW's important role as the sole institute within the United Nations system to work on research and training to promote the advancement of women through analysis of the obstacles that prevented women's participation in the development process. She pointed out that at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, among others, it had been recognized that sustainable development could not be achieved without the full participation of women. The Dominican Republic was fully convinced of INSTRAW's important contribution to a more just society for women and men, where discrimination, violence and inequality would not exist. She expressed the pride felt by the Dominican Republic in having provided INSTRAW's headquarters in Santo Domingo since 1983 and reiterated its permanent commitment to support INSTRAW's work.

155. In her capacity as ex officio member, Jacqueline Malagón, welcomed the Board and expressed her regrets for not being able personally to greet the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. She requested that her greetings be conveyed to him.

156. She expressed her gratitude to the President and members of the Board for their efforts in reinforcing and revitalizing INSTRAW during the past three years. She also expressed her appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for its active support to the Institute's work programme. She commended the work of the Acting Director, stating that it was not an exaggeration to say that her dynamism and leadership during external and internal hardship and constraints had saved INSTRAW. Furthermore, she expressed her gratitude to Julia Tavares de Alvarez.

157. She pointed to General Assembly resolution 50/163, in which the Assembly empowered INSTRAW to report to the Second Committee in addition to the Third Committee. She stated that, in order to comply with that new important responsibility, the Institute must rely on adequate financial and human resources. On behalf of her Government, she requested further information on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Trustees at its fifteenth session 1/ regarding staffing arrangements.

158. Ms. Malagón recommended that INSTRAW bring to the attention of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II, the situation of elderly women, in particular, migrants, refugees and those living in rural areas. She also proposed that analyses be made of the impact of natural disasters, drought and desertification on the living conditions of ageing women around the world.

159. She concluded by emphasizing the role of INSTRAW and women in combating poverty and expressed her Government's continued commitment to collaboration in that respect and to providing its full support to INSTRAW. Finally, she requested that her statement be annexed in its entirety in the final report of the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW at its sixteenth session.

160. In her opening statement, the Acting Director, on behalf of INSTRAW and its staff, welcomed the members of the Board of Trustees and congratulated Ms. King on her new appointment as Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women. She expressed appreciation to Ji Chaozhu and to Guido Bertucci and to Hanifa Mezoui for their contributions to the Institute. She also expressed her gratitude to the President of the Board for her invaluable support and sound advice.

161. She brought to the attention of the Board the contents of General Assembly resolution 31/135 of 16 December 1976, by which the Assembly had endorsed the establishment of INSTRAW, thus ratifying Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976, in which the Council had decided to establish INSTRAW as an autonomous body under the auspices of the United Nations and envisaged the substantial contribution that INSTRAW would make to the advancement of women. She emphasized that the past 20 years of hard work had been fruitful.

162. She highlighted the important contribution made by United Nations conferences since 1992 in sobering analyses of the state of natural resources and the environment; poverty eradication; population growth; economic, social and cultural rights; and the precarious condition of women's lives. The research institutes should focus on providing feasible solutions that would allow all social groups to have dignity, equity and peace, according to the theme of the Beijing Conference.

163. She pointed out that research related to women was a long and silent process, both at the level of perception and at the public-opinion, institutional and political levels. She outlined specific problems caused by environmental deterioration and how it affected women's lives and explained INSTRAW's programme in that area. She gave a brief analysis of other issues related to INSTRAW's work programme in the areas of political and economic empowerment, communications technology, statistics and gender indicators. She pointed out that INSTRAW's experience in those areas of work was a comparative advantage in complying with the mandate for which the Institute had been created.

B. Attendance

164. The following members of the Board attended the session: Selma Acuner (Turkey), Ishan Abdalla Algabshawi (Sudan), Esther Ashton (Bolivia), Fatima Benslimane Hassar (Morocco), Pilar Escario Rodríguez-Spiteri (Spain), Noelie Kangoye (Burkina Faso), Els Postel-Coster (Netherlands), Gail Saunders (Bahamas), Renata Siemienska-Zochowska (Poland) and Sudarsono (Indonesia).

165. The following ex officio members of the Board also attended: the representative of the Under-Secretary-General, the Department for Policy

Coordination and Sustainable Development, also representing the Division for the Advancement of Women; the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) representing all the regional commissions; the representative of the host country (Dominican Republic) and the Acting Director of INSTRAW.

166. Also attending the session were the representatives of Ecuador, Italy, Malta, Mexico and Turkey, and the representatives of the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the Inter-American Development Bank and the focal point from the Dominican Republic.

C. Election of officers

167. At its 1st meeting, in accordance with rule 7 of its rules of procedure, the Board elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Gail Saunders (Bahamas)

Vice-President: Selma Acuner (Turkey)

Rapporteur: Sudarsono (Indonesia)

168. The newly elected President thanked the members of the Board for her election and expressed her commitment to fulfilling their expectations in guiding the discussions of the Board at its sixteenth session. She continued by highlighting the special and unique role that the Institute played in the United Nations system and noted that both the Beijing Platform for Action and the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, had recognized the distinct mandates of INSTRAW and UNIFEM in the advancement of women. She pointed out that, in order to comply with its mandate, INSTRAW needed to strengthen its structure, especially with regard to staffing.

D. Agenda

169. At its 1st meeting, the Board adopted the following agenda (INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.1) by consensus:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.
4. Strategic Planning Committee meeting.
5. Progress report by the Acting Director.
6. Networking - focal points.

7. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

8. Empowerment of women.

9. Other matters relating to the functioning of the Institute.

10. Date of the next session of the Board.

11. Adoption of the report of the session.

12. Closing of the session.

170. In regard to the organization of work, the President made various proposals relating to the distribution of documents and stated that interventions by Board members and other participants should be as concise as possible.

E. Date of the next session of the Board

171. At its 7th meeting, on 23 February 1996, the Board agreed that its seventeenth session should take place during the second half of February 1997, in accordance with United Nations calendar requirements. 4/

F. Adoption of the report of the Board on its sixteenth session

172. At its 7th meeting, on 23 February 1996, the Board adopted the report on its sixteenth session (INSTRAW/BT/1996/R.4 and Add.1-6).

Notes

1/ E/1995/80.

2/ See Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1.

3/ Ibid., annex II.

4/ See General Assembly resolution 50/206 of 23 December 1995.

ANNEX

STATEMENT OF JACQUELINE MALAGÓN TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INSTRAW AT ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION

Santo Domingo, 19 February 1996

At the inauguration of this sixteenth session of INSTRAW's Board of Trustees, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Dominican Republic, I wished to welcome the representative of the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, Mr. Nitin Desai, but I have just learned that, due to the financial crisis which currently affects the United Nations, Mr. Desai is unable to attend. I welcome therefore Mrs. Angela King, Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, who attends this meeting in representation of Mr. Desai. We ask that the President of the Board, through Mrs. King, extend our warm regards to Mr. Desai as well as the concern of the Government of the Dominican Republic, which trusts that his absence will not be detrimental to the existence or autonomy of INSTRAW, or a deviation from its mandate.

We also wish to welcome the members of the Board of Trustees and the observers who will participate with us in this sixteenth session of the Board.

In addition, we wish to refer to the recommendation formulated at the Fourth World Conference on Women that a high officer of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General provide him with advice regarding issues relating to gender and help to guarantee that the Beijing Platform For Action is applied throughout the United Nations system. The Secretary-General has designated such a high adviser, Under-Secretary-General Rosario Green, to fulfil that mission. Ms. Green will assist the Secretary-General in guaranteeing that gender issues are efficiently integrated into the policies and programmes of all spheres of work in the system and are taken fully into account when promoting the linkages of the organization with civil society. Those monitoring and coordinating functions will be an integral part of the political responsibilities and other types of responsibility which concern Ms. Green in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

It would have been commendable had Ms. Green been present on this occasion. The Dominican Republic, as host country, wishes to recommend to the Board of Trustees and to INSTRAW's Director that means of collaboration with her be established.

We want to express our gratitude to the President of the Board for the efforts made to strengthen and revitalize INSTRAW during the difficult past three years. We are very grateful to her country, the Netherlands, for the active and continued support provided to INSTRAW's programme of work.

We are also grateful to the Vice-President and the Rapporteur who have contributed so much to the work of the Institute.

Finally, we must recognize the work of Ms. Martha Dueñas-Loza, the Acting Director of INSTRAW. As the President of the Board stated eloquently during the last session of the Board, if INSTRAW, despite having gone through a period of tremendous difficulty continued to exist and to work, showing a list of remarkable initiatives and activities, that was undoubtedly due to the extraordinary dynamism and dedication of the Acting Director, Ms. Martha Dueñas-Loza. It is not an exaggeration to say that she has saved the life of the Institute with her leadership during this trial period.

The participation of the Acting Director was also essential in ensuring the financial reserve of 1 million dollars needed by INSTRAW's trust fund. Despite the restrictions imposed due to external circumstances and to the large number of vacancies at a high level, INSTRAW has been able to carry out the programme of work approved by the Board.

Please allow me now to thank Ambassador Julia Tavares de Alvarez, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations and a member of the Commission established by His Excellency, President Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, to handle matters related to INSTRAW. Her untiring work and devotion have been decisive in defending and preserving the integrity of the Statutes of INSTRAW.

This sixteenth session of the Board is crucial because we meet at a time when the United Nations confronts a profound financial crisis and is in the midst of a reform and restructuring process which, no doubt, will affect the functioning and efficiency of all its bodies and organizations, including those working for the advancement of women. Also, the United Nations system must find adequate means to implement the recommendations which arose from the five important conferences held by the United Nations since 1992, particularly those concerning the eradication of poverty and the deterioration of the environment, which have worsened the standard of living of women throughout the world, particularly those from developing countries. To eliminate this trend, it is necessary to implement strong and immediate measures.

One of the measures that we would like to recommend to the Board is that it bring to the attention of the Habitat II Conference INSTRAW's pioneer work regarding the situation and condition of elderly women, particularly rural, migrant and refugee women. This proposal should include an analysis of the effects of natural disasters, drought and desertification on elderly women throughout the world.

During the fifteenth period of sessions of the Board, the Acting Director pointed out that INSTRAW's report was reviewed by the Third Committee only of the General Assembly, with relation to the item "Advancement of women". The Acting Director noted that this limited the Institute's ability to provide the other main committees of the General Assembly with substantive contributions and conclusions derived from its research in crucial areas of economic and social development, such as water, environment and sustainable development, waste management, renewable sources of energy, human settlements, alleviation of poverty, desertification, international migration, and violence against women migrant workers. The Acting Director pointed out that, in order to overcome such limitations, INSTRAW should present reports to the Second and Third

Committees regarding the subjects pertinent to its programmes in order to improve the conditions and synergy among them. The President suggested that the Board should consider the possibility of formulating a recommendation in that respect; it was later approved by the General Assembly in resolution 50/162 of 23 December 1995. That, in our opinion, was a significant contribution that will undoubtedly promote the advancement of women. However, it must be pointed out that this new responsibility demands adequate human and financial resources.

INSTRAW's dynamic and substantive participation contributed to the success of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the NGO Forum. We await with interest the brochure that the Institute is preparing, compiling the objectives and main results as well as the conclusions and most important recommendations resulting from the special events and working groups organized by INSTRAW at the conference and the Forum.

We have studied the progress report prepared by the Acting Director for the work performed in relation to the 1995 programme of work. The volume and quality of the work the Institute has been able to perform is noteworthy, taking into consideration the reduced number of professional staff available, the numerous vacancies at the management level, and the limited financial resources at its disposal. We wish to praise once again the Acting Director and the Institute's personnel for the competence and dedication shown in the implementation of the programme approved by the Board at its fourteenth session.

However, it is important to emphasize that the lack of an adequate management team is an untenable situation, since it is detrimental for the implementation and development of the Institute's mandate.

Consequently, our Government is particularly interested in knowing what measures have been taken to implement the following recommendations made by the Board:

(a) A Director should be appointed as soon as possible, to comply with the mandate under resolution 49/163 of the General Assembly (23 December 1994);

(b) As soon as possible the recruitment process for a Chief of the Research and Training Unit, a Chief of the Information, Communications and Documentation Unit, and a Chief of Administration and Finance should be concluded;

(c) The Office of Human Resources Management of the United Nations Secretariat should be asked to apply the national officers category to three posts occupied by qualified staff of the Institute;

(d) The categories and salaries of all General Service staff should be examined and upgraded, as needed.

We will make concrete observations regarding these and other pertinent measures once the Board has examined the corresponding issues of the programme. We await with interest the study of the budget project for the biennium 1996-1997 which contains the configuration of INSTRAW's staff.

As was stated in the report of the Secretary-General regarding INSTRAW's activities (A/50/538), the activities of the Institute are of crucial importance if the United Nations is to comply with its mission to alleviate poverty. Both the Summit on Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women pointed out the important role of INSTRAW, in particular, and of women, in general, in the fight against poverty.

Let me point out, that chapter VI of the Platform, on financial arrangements, underlines that full and efficient implementation of the Platform, including commitments made at prior United Nations summits and conferences, demands the political commitment to provide human and financial resources for the empowerment of women.

To conclude, we wish to assure the United Nations and the Board of Trustees of our continued interest in the advancement of women, our full cooperation to that end, and our strong support of INSTRAW.

On behalf of the Government, the Dominican people and myself, I wish you success in your debate and our best wishes for a pleasant stay in Santo Domingo.

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The drug problem has become increasingly globalized, and the traditional perception that it concerns producer nations and consumer nations only is no longer valid. There are now high rates of addiction in both industrialized and developing countries, with wide-ranging health and social impacts. Additional challenges to drug control are posed by trade liberalization and the growing interdependence of the world economy, while in many countries, political instability, fragile drug control institutions and the absence of effective regulatory systems undermine the ability of Governments to respond. Finally, the linkages between drug-related problems and socio-economic development are now well recognized. The increasingly complex nature of the drug problem thus calls more than ever for Governments to make a collective and global response.

A well-founded framework for government action and international cooperation exists in the form of the drug control conventions and the Global Programme of Action. The work of the United Nations system is led and coordinated by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which was established by the General Assembly in 1990, and an increasing number of agencies in the United Nations system are now addressing the issue within their respective fields of competence and in cooperation with the Programme. Such machinery, however, remains under-funded, especially with regard to the general resources needed to undertake and sustain the core mandated activities of the United Nations.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of the present report is to assist the Economic and Social Council in considering the theme: "International cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities".

2. At its organizational session in February 1996, the Council decided to adopt the above-mentioned theme for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1996, as strongly recommended in its resolutions 1995/1 and 1995/40.

3. The present report briefly reviews the critical issues facing the international community in its fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The report focuses on the threat to the world economy posed by international drug trafficking and the impact of drug abuse on societies; recommends actions to improve international cooperation in drug control; and examines the work of the United Nations in the field.

4. Section I outlines the economic dimensions of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse, including the links between economic reform and organized crime, as well as those between illicit drugs and development. It considers alternative development and reviews practical ways to combat the problem, such as strengthening the prevention of money-laundering and establishing more effective international cooperation.

5. Section II examines the social impact of drug abuse, including its relationship with the family, the workplace and society, as well as its adverse health consequences, such as the transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and the spread of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Section II also proposes a number of measures for tackling this aspect of the problem, particularly strategies for preventing drug abuse by young people.

6. Section III highlights the global dimensions of drug abuse and trafficking, the international response and the role of the United Nations as the main focus for concerted international action in the field.

7. Recommendations to assist the Council in its consideration of the subject are listed at the end of each section. The attention of the Council is also drawn to the views of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 48/12, as contained in its report on its thirty-ninth session, in particular its resolutions 8 (XXXIX) and 10 (XXXIX). The attention of the Council is further drawn to Assembly resolution 50/148, in which the Assembly invited Member States to inform the Council at its high-level segment of 1996 on progress in international cooperation, especially on specific national efforts to engage the United Nations system and the multilateral development banks in addressing the drug problem.

I. ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

8. It is difficult to estimate the full economic impact of the illicit drug problem because its clandestine nature complicates rigorous assessment and hinders analysis. However, the relentless spread of the problem has increased awareness of the detrimental effects of drug abuse and trafficking on the economic and social fabric of society, which has forced the illicit drug problem higher up the world's economic and social agenda, considerably improving the prospects of overcoming obstacles that have hitherto prevented a detailed understanding. With regard to the economic dimensions of the problem, there is now general agreement on several areas requiring further investigation, notably the impact of illicit drugs on employment, prices and taxation, trade and finance.

9. It is sometimes assumed that the illicit drug trade is a cost-free source of jobs for those unable to find productive work in other sectors. Yet even in the producer countries, the apparent employment gains are more than offset by insidious and deep-rooted side-effects. Resources are diverted from legitimate and more sustainable investments and lost to society in general, and there is an inevitable spillover from drug production into consumption. Moreover, identifiable costs of drug abuse, in countries where such data are available, range from 0.5 to 1.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), most of which represents drug-related crime and law enforcement costs.

10. Since the 1980s, primary commodity prices have remained low and some have declined. In contrast, crops such as the opium poppy have proved more profitable for the farmers, who can make a subsistence income from them even though more than 90 per cent of profits in the cocaine and heroin trade are generated during distribution. However, because drug crops are produced entirely in the informal or illegal sector of the economy, they diminish the accuracy of the basic indicators, such as retail prices, that Governments use to shape economic and fiscal policy. Furthermore, the bulk of drug-related income, which is earned not by farmers but traffickers, is usually deposited abroad or used for legal and illegal luxury imports; few benefit from the profits of the illicit drug trade, which also go untaxed. The size of this underground sector seriously distorts the efficient working of many economies.

11. As trade barriers collapse and intraregional trading arrangements proliferate, drug traffickers have also taken advantage of the general ability to move goods more freely between countries. Trade liberalization is welcome and generally brings more benefits than problems, but the resultant rise in cross-border trading has opened new avenues for illicit drug distribution and may well be diminishing the chances of detecting a greater proportion of illicit goods relative to the rising volume produced and trafficked.

12. Two significant consequences of the illicit drug problem are money-laundering and criminal investment. The Financial Action Task Force, which was established in 1989 by the Group of Seven major industrialized countries, has estimated that of the $122 billion accumulated annually from cocaine, heroin and cannabis sales during the late 1980s, about 70 per cent, or $85 billion - an amount greater than the gross national product of three quarters of the 207 economies of the world - became available for laundering and investment. It is

difficult to document what criminal organizations do with their laundered profits. The growing economic impact of crime syndicates in several countries is only one reflection of a worldwide trend in which criminals are using their earnings to invest in real assets. The better the data that we can gather about these areas, the better will we be able to devise means of countering them.

A. Organized crime and money-laundering

13. The link between crime and drugs is increasingly affecting societies. Trafficking begets other criminal activity, such as violence between groups competing for market share at the wholesale and retail levels. At the same time, the sums involved give criminals substantial resources with which to organize themselves efficiently, with little or no regard for the fiscal, regulatory and legal constraints on normal businesses. Their capital resources are increasingly being used to finance diversification into legitimate business activity. Such intermingling of illicit and legitimate activities poses a serious threat to tackling the drugs problem.

14. Drug profits appear to be growing in spite of increasing seizures by anti-trafficking forces. European seizures of heroin increased nearly fourfold between 1984 and 1994, but the ratio of seizures to shipments - in other words, the success rate of anti-trafficking measures - is unknown. What evidence there is suggests that production rates are rising even more rapidly than seizures. The net result is that until and unless global demand becomes saturated, profits will continue to grow in both absolute and relative terms. The relationships between the volume of drugs illicitly produced, the volume actually trafficked and the amounts seized merits further study in order to establish the true magnitude of the problem.

15. Financial flows from drug trafficking may be estimated directly or indirectly. Direct methods analyse international banking and capital account statistics for the balance of payments; indirect methods gauge net profits by correlating estimates of world drug production, market demand among drug abusers and the volume of seizures. There is a need to continuously review estimating methods in order to improve accuracy and understanding of the problem.

16. One result of money-laundering becoming a major international concern has been a continuing process of legislative consolidation. Some of the more important milestones in developing international controls include the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, of 1988; the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime, which was concluded in 1990; and the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly in 1990. Money-laundering is a priority of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Two important conferences took place in 1994: one was held in Courmayeur, Italy; the other, a widely reported ministerial conference on organized transnational crime that examined how best to ensure a global response to the problem, was held in Naples. Also fundamental are the guiding recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force of February 1990.

17. To build on that momentum, there is a need for better coordination and a rational division of labour among national and international bodies. Because of its global constituency, the United Nations is well placed to coordinate with other organizations working in this area, such as the Financial Action Task Force, the Council of Europe and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States, and to expand the scope and application of measures that prove effective against money-laundering. The United Nations could also coordinate the provision of technical assistance and training to Member States so that they can better design their own strategies and strengthen any appropriate mechanisms for prevention and control. Money-laundering can involve complicated processes, and fighting it requires an understanding of sophisticated financial instruments and procedures; training is thus a particularly important form of technical assistance.

18. Another crucial current issue is the link between market reform and the economic influence of laundered drug money. As Governments' managerial role in economies diminishes, organized crime is taking advantage of the attendant relaxation in regulatory regimes. The benefits of economic liberalization, which brings with it more widely accessible banking and freer flows of capital, almost certainly outweigh the pitfalls. However, an easier regulatory framework can be exploited by good and bad alike. One unwelcome consequence is that it is easier to invest drug-related earnings in both legitimate and illicit sectors of the economy.

19. For example, privatization can provide openings for organized crime to buy a foothold in the legitimate sector. Banking reforms, which admit new entrants into the financial sector, can be manipulated by criminal organizations with substantial cash holdings. The key to countering such abuses is to apply controls friendly to legitimate investors, such as:

(a) Greater transparency in financial records: transparent record-keeping on sources of finance would allow a clearer picture of the status of financing of any firm;

(b) Anti-racketeering laws: criminal financial activities should be clearly defined in law, with common international definitions wherever possible;

(c) Information exchange: the exchange of intelligence on criminal trends, in particular cross-border financing, must become a more fundamental aspect of anti-crime efforts;

(d) Internationalization of drug control: Cross-border cooperation and coordination between those responsible for international drug control must play a more central role in tackling drug-trafficking organizations.

B. Illicit drugs and development

20. Illicit drugs can seem an attractive means to economic development. Yet the economic gains, as noted above (see paras. 9 and 10), are illusory: the apparent benefits for a few in the illicit drug trade mask many negative economic, social and environmental side-effects. Short-term economic gains are

far outweighed by the spread of addiction, lower productivity, eroded human capital and environmental decay. The cumulative effect is to compromise sustainable development.

21. A recent study supported by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and other agencies in Egypt, Mexico, Namibia, Poland and Sri Lanka found that substance abusers have 2 to 4 times more accidents at work than other employees, and are absent 2 to 3 times more often. The rise in drug abuse in many countries is thus fraught with implications for long-term productivity. Having a job may well discourage drug abuse: the 1993 national household survey in Colombia found that the annual prevalence of illicit drug abuse was highest among those who had no work (4.1 per cent), while it was four times lower among those who had work (1.1 per cent).

22. Drug-driven economic activity also diverts scarce resources away from conventional wealth-creating investment into high-risk, short-term ventures. In terms of opportunity costs, short-term economic gains from the illicit drug industry must always be measured against what could have been achieved legally with the same resources. In the end, drugs bring about a loss of investment in legitimate enterprise by farmers and processors; a failure to develop human capital since drug-related employment provides a false sense of security to its "workforce"; and a decline in the quality and size of the legitimate workforce.

23. Street children illustrate the impact on human capital. Fuelled by demographic pressures, many cities of the developing world have makeshift warrens full of destitute children trapped in a vicious circle of poverty. When poverty and adolescent lack of regard for legal norms combine, illicit drugs, particularly solvents, can seem to offer a means of economic survival, a source of peer respectability, and a convenient albeit temporary escape from reality.

24. The damage to human capital is even more obvious when HIV and AIDS are involved. The primary cause of HIV transmission in the developing world is sexual activity, but intravenous drug use still accounts for a substantial portion of AIDS-related cases. In Brazil, for example, it is believed that about 28 per cent of HIV transmission is due to intravenous drug use. In Thailand, the prevalence of HIV infection among intravenous drug users is between 40 and 50 per cent, representing a continuing drain on future human and economic potential.

25. The impact of illicit drug production on the environment is equally unmistakable: illicit crop cultivation and drug production are often responsible for deforestation, soil degradation and water pollution. Coca cultivation is thought to have led to the deforestation of 700,000 hectares in the Amazon region of Peru alone. Each year in Colombia, more than 20 million litres of ethyl ether, acetone, ammonia, sulphuric acid and hydrochloric acid, all of which are involved in the production of cocaine hydrochloride, are dumped into streams and tributaries of the Amazon and Orinoco rivers. Intense use of pesticides by coca cultivators in the Chapare area in Bolivia has already seriously contaminated groundwater.

26. It is clear that anti-drug efforts must be closely allied to development policies. However, the tremendous expenditures required for alternative

development make a division of labour essential among the agencies concerned. Indeed, the scale of funding needed will require that Governments and international organizations quantify the benefits of the investment involved and seek ways of securing a broader and more stable financial foundation for alternative development initiatives than has hitherto existed. This will require a clear understanding of common objectives between Member States and agencies and among the agencies themselves.

27. For any joint undertaking between drug control and development bodies, multidisciplinary teamwork and consultation must begin at the earliest possible stage of any project. In that way, drug control can be included as an integral part of an overall package of development assistance. For example, a drug-plagued community might be helped by improvement to its schools. A sensible division of labour would be for development bodies to concentrate on establishing an educational infrastructure on a sustainable basis. Drug control bodies would develop preventive education programmes for young people, fund outreach initiatives to reintegrate drug abusers into the school system, and campaign to raise wider awareness and understanding of the problem.

28. Another useful example would be post-war economic reconstruction. In that case, development bodies would focus on such issues as reviving agricultural production, controlling disease, reintegrating refugees and rebuilding infrastructure. There would also be a coordinated effort to demobilize ex-combatants and start skills re-training and job creation schemes. It would also be necessary to combat drug trafficking and any related arms smuggling activity. At the same time, drug control bodies would help to reintegrate the country into the international legal framework, thwart the emergence of illicit production, develop the institutional mechanisms to prevent cross-border trafficking, and prevent a rise in domestic abuse through education and rehabilitation.

C. Recommendations

29. More accurate knowledge is needed about the economic dimensions of the illicit drug problem to help develop and target domestic and international drug control policy. At the country level, economic policy-making and drug control authorities need to establish institutional partnerships, which would vastly enhance national capabilities in addressing the economic dimension of illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption. How best to nurture such partnerships for progress at the regional and global levels should be addressed by Member States.

30. Opportunities to launder drug money are made easier by a global economy that is increasingly interdependent. Mechanisms must be developed to facilitate multilateral decision-making and action against money-laundering. The foundation laid by regional organizations must be built upon, and the United Nations has both the potential and the comparative advantage to contribute to cooperation between the relevant country-level authorities. An equally essential area of cooperation for policy development is that between the public and the private sectors: greater coordination between Governments and private

banking and other financial institutions is an important prerequisite for controlling money-laundering at the international level.

31. Action should be taken to support and enhance the various efforts already under way to reinforce partnership between development and drug control organizations. Member States should act through the governing bodies of development organizations to ensure that they incorporate drug control concerns whenever appropriate in their activities. Governments seeking assistance from international financial institutions should include drug control activities in their proposals, especially alternative development in zones affected or threatened by illicit cultivation. United Nations agencies, acting through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), have already launched an intensified operational partnership in the field of drug control; each concerned agency should take all necessary steps to ensure full implementation of the ACC decisions, especially at the country level.

II. SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

32. There is debate in many countries about whether illicit drug use should be considered a crime, a disease, a social disorder or some mixture of these. Public policy is often ambivalent about the nature of drug addiction, with social attitudes reflecting uncertainty about its causes and who is responsible for dealing with it. Several areas warrant investigation as far as the social dimension is concerned, notably the relationships between drugs and the family, health, education, employment and crime.

A. The family

33. The link between drugs and families is complex. It is not correct to assume routinely either that parents are responsible for their children's drug-related problems or that substance users deserve blame for the problems of their families. On the other hand, factors influencing drug abuse may include prolonged or traumatic parental absence, harsh discipline, failure to communicate on an emotional level and drug use by parents. Relocation of families or individual members in search of work, which will increase with the growth of interdependence within the world economy, can also be a factor.

34. There is also evidence that illicit drug abuse correlates more strongly with disintegration of the family than with poverty, which was demonstrated in a study conducted in Mexico by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations University. A similar study conducted by the same bodies in the Lao People's Democratic Republic found that where social controls exercised by the family and the community had broken down, opium and heroin consumption rose among young people to affect as much as 10 per cent of the population. Another study in the same series, this time in Thailand, attributed increasing abuse of heroin and psychotropic substances to urbanization, rapid cultural change and a breakdown in family cohesion. The relationship can also work the other way, with substance abuse straining family relations and ultimately making families dysfunctional, transforming them from an asset into a burden on society.

35. Yet the family group can also be a potent force for prevention and treatment. It is important to recognize and support the family, in whatever form it takes, as a resource for drug abuse prevention and treatment. The family has a key role to play in teaching the young, providing health care and mobilizing community support when necessary, and can thus improve efforts to reduce both the supply of and demand for drugs.

36. Young people suffer most from the fragmentation of the family. In many cultures, adolescence is a period for developing a sense of self-identity and establishing new social ties, values and ideals. It is a very vulnerable period of life, in which peer group pressure can result in experimenting with drugs.

37. Drug abuse is expanding among different groups of young people. The average age of first contact with drugs has decreased worldwide. New drugs such as "ecstasy" and designer drugs, are emerging alongside the more traditional ones such as heroin and cocaine, and it is disturbing that more young people than ever before are injecting drugs.

B. Health

38. The health costs of a drug abuser appear to be some 80 per cent higher than those of an average citizen in the same age group. Cocaine, heroin, other opiates, barbiturates, amphetamines and their derivatives have all been widely implicated in drug-related, premature death. The link between intravenous drug use and the spread of HIV-AIDS is also well established: some 22 per cent of the world's HIV/AIDS population are intravenous drug users.

39. A possibly more significant link between drugs and health, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), is the relationship between substance abuse and hepatitis, tuberculosis, cardiovascular diseases, cirrhosis and neuropsychiatric disorders. Drug abuse may lead to complications in pregnancy including fetal distress and post-natal disorders, and may also contribute to violent behaviour and suicide. Indeed, the true impact of drug abuse on health transcends the spread of HIV/AIDS, having a far more widespread role throughout the world in causing and exacerbating illness.

40. It is more effective and less costly to prevent people from taking drugs than to cure them when they do. Drug abuse continues to be a reality, however, and has to be reckoned with in its various manifestations. Strategies need to be adapted to address the problem in all its forms, from experimental abuse to dependent abuse. Outreach work and innovative measures of early intervention are as important as treatment and rehabilitation, especially when it comes to young people at risk.

41. Nevertheless, treatment and rehabilitation are essential components of demand reduction. Research suggests that properly managed treatment changes behaviour, providing a foundation for rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. Successful programmes, however, require qualified staff, constant management, adequate resources and the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances. Because specialized assistance is often not available in many countries, existing primary health-care settings and networks may have to be

adapted. Most people in rural areas have no easy access to specialized health care, but the use of primary health care networks can provide a contact point and a means of intervention.

42. Increasing abuse of synthetic stimulants is also emerging as a major threat to health, and the wide range of amphetamine-based substances is particularly worrying. The abuse of synthetic stimulants has grown rapidly at a time when their therapeutic use has been in decline, and the problem is worsening faster than the problems posed by heroin and cocaine, with serious implications for international drug control because many of the synthetic stimulants are cheaper than cocaine, have a longer stimulant effect and cannot be controlled at the supply level since they do not depend on botanical raw materials. The main consumers of the new synthetic stimulants in many parts of the world are young people, who may be attracted to them because despite the damage to health that they can do, they do not carry the same harmful image as other drugs.

C. Education

43. There is little question that drug abuse diminishes young people's ability to realize their full learning potential. There is an urgent need for all Governments to embrace preventive education as a basic means of trying to contain the spread of drug abuse. The high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council could provide a much-needed boost to a greater integration of preventive education, allied to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, in basic school curricula.

44. In many countries, however, few children have access to even basic school education, so that one must also look beyond the school to deliver preventive programmes: home, the community and religious institutions, to name three examples, are appropriate non-academic settings for the education of young and old alike.

45. On the other hand, there are societies that are reluctant to recognize and address openly drug-related problems and even in societies in which such problems are recognized, drug abuse must vie with a host of other ills for financial resources, which is why Governments must play a central role in leading the debate on drug abuse within their societies. They have the capability to gather information on the problem and the responsibility to use the knowledge gained to promote greater awareness: only if they are provided with an understanding of the problem can people be expected to do something about it.

D. The workplace

46. As mentioned above (see paras. 9 and 10 and 20-24), the direct and indirect ramifications of substance abuse in the workplace are numerous, including increased levels of absenteeism, accidents and claims for sickness benefits and compensation. The hidden financial costs associated with substance abuse, such as lost productivity or lost business opportunities, are substantial, as are the human costs such as loss of jobs, loss of skilled workers and strained labour

relations. It must be borne in mind that while prevention is optimal, treatment is also possible, and in that context work is vital to recovery and contributes profoundly to securing dignity and a place in the world for the recovering person.

E. Crime

47. The potential for organized crime to exploit the liberalization of economies around the world is discussed in section IA above. There are also social dimensions to the link between drugs and crime.

48. It is generally recognized that there are three types of violence associated with drugs: (a) violence caused by the pharmacological effects of the drugs themselves; (b) economic compulsive violence; and (c) systemic violence. The pharmacological effect of some drugs induces or increases aggressive behaviour. Economic compulsive violence arises from addicts' need for money to buy drugs, and even though violence figures in only a small proportion of crimes committed to raise drug money, the amount of violence involved is still significant. Systemic violence develops through the relationships between addicts, dealers and traffickers; it centres on competition for market share and control of territory, and often forces many addicts into drug distribution and trafficking.

49. Policy makers and the community at large must take account of social problems resulting from drug abuse and crime because of their widening impact on society at large. Studies of the regional prevalence of violence in Colombia, for example, have shown that 8 of the 10 most violent regions in the country are major cocaine and marijuana-producing and trafficking areas. Another related problem is theft: one study found that 50 per cent of the total value of theft in 1993 in England and Wales was drug-related. The correlation between drug use and prostitution is sometimes the result of a decision to finance the former with the latter, although escape from destitution is probably still the primary cause.

F. Recommendations

50. The biggest priority in tackling the drug problem at the social level is to prevent drug abuse by young people. Young persons are affected more than others by changes in the availability of drugs and attitudes towards them. If drugs are readily available and society takes a permissive attitude to drug use, the number experimenting with drugs will increase and the number lapsing into regular drug-taking habits will be greater. Demand-reduction programmes should therefore be mutually reinforcing components of a balanced, comprehensive and multifaceted drug control strategy.

51. Preventing drug abuse requires a long-term commitment. It is necessary to look for fundamental changes rather than short-term results. To that end, the integration of demand-reduction programmes into existing or planned social and health policies is vital. The drug issue needs to be incorporated into programmes addressing other major issues, such as poverty, housing, unemployment

or rural development. Different types of demand reduction programmes, whether education, community activities, treatment or rehabilitation, should be integrated, focusing particularly on the prevention of drug abuse by young people.

52. In addition, drug abuse prevention should be comprehensive and multisectoral, involving social skills training, the promotion of a healthy life style, family support, community involvement, advocacy and social mobilization. What is needed is an approach that involves the widest possible range of social actors to promote healthy development of the young person rather than piecemeal programmes that address drug and substance abuse as an isolated problem.

53. Drug prevention measures for young people need to try to reach as many young people as possible. General measures should be supplemented by measures targeting groups at special risk, such as out-of-school children and street children. It is essential to identify and target vulnerable groups through programmes tailored to their specific needs and characteristics.

54. Preventive education should be further integrated into the operational portfolios of all relevant bodies of the United Nations system. It is equally important to formally establish or strengthen regular dialogue on demand reduction among all entities within the United Nations system that have an interest or a role to play. There is a need to focus on the prevention of drug abuse by young people and seek long-term solutions. The integration of demand reduction activities into existing or planned social and health policies is a prerequisite for achieving a truly multifaceted effort in drug abuse control.

III. GLOBAL DIMENSIONS

A. Globalization of the problem

55. Drug abuse and trafficking have become increasingly complex over the last three decades: there are more illicit drugs, production is more widely spread, there is more abuse and more trafficking routes have opened up. A world market driven by demand and opportunity has developed just as much for illicit drugs as it has for consumer goods, thus globalizing the drug problem.

56. New drugs or new forms of old ones have emerged. Among the opiates, new drugs are limited for the most part to variations in preparations of existing drugs or products, such as the poppy straw-based "compote" or crude versions of heroin that have been appearing in many countries. With cocaine, the new drug has been the notorious crack. Synthetic drugs offer varied pharmacological effects, as different hallucinogens, barbiturates, amphetamine-type stimulants or amphetamine derivatives emerge in different places. Collectively, they are abused in enough different countries to be labelled a global problem.

57. In economic terms, the illicit drug market behaves no differently from any other market for goods and services, all of which have been globalizing rapidly in the last 10 years under the impetus of economic liberalization, rising consumer affluence and improved international transport infrastructure. As with legitimate goods and services, developing countries provide some of the fastest

growing regional markets. The highest rates of heroin addiction are no longer found in developed countries but rather in a number of developing countries in Asia, such as Pakistan, and high growth rates for heroin abuse are also found in parts of Africa. Crude coca derivatives are creating problems in producer and transit countries. Methaqualone has faded considerably from the scene in industrialized countries, while remaining a major problem in Eastern and Southern Africa. Significant abuse of several psychotropic substances has been observed in countries of West Africa. In the Middle East, there is large-scale diversion of both barbiturates and amphetamine-type stimulants from legitimate pharmaceutical and therapeutic use.

58. Trafficking patterns tend to follow drug types and country of origin. Cocaine distribution, for example, begins in the Andean region and spreads northward though Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean region to end points in North America, Europe and elsewhere. With the development of easier passage across international borders by people, goods, services and capital, the notorious "Balkan route" has transformed itself into a broad land-based network of primarily heroin trafficking routes stretching from Afghanistan and Pakistan through the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and the Central Asian States of the Commonwealth of Independent States to almost every major city in Europe.

59. Global economic and social changes have also provided the opportunity for illicit drug producers and traffickers to organize themselves on a global scale, placing and investing illegal profits in financial centres that offer secrecy and attractive investment returns. The illicit drug trade is therefore very well positioned to spread corruption, threatening any nation's security by undermining the legitimacy of democratic institutions from within.

B. International response

60. The above-mentioned trends have forced a change in the way the international community tries to tackle the problem. Until the mid-1980s, the drug challenge was perceived as the sole concern of producing and consuming States but the globalization of drug abuse and trafficking has removed that perception beyond any doubt, replacing it with the principle of shared or collective responsibility, as enshrined in the Declaration adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (Vienna, 17-26 June 1987). In 1988, the international community decisively strengthened the array of legal instruments at its disposal by adopting the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

61. Another decisive step was taken by the world community in 1990 with the launching of an all-encompassing and balanced strategy, the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session. In adopting the Programme of Action, the entire world community joined in a network of mutual obligations and a commitment of resources to more effective action, reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in international cooperation in drug control and emphasizing the high priority attached by the world community to international drug control. That high priority was recognized in the current Medium-term Plan and reaffirmed during the commemorative meeting of

the General Assembly in October 1995, when many heads of State and Government devoted special emphasis in their statements to the role of the United Nations in combating illicit drugs.

62. Today, the international community has an effective arsenal at its disposal: a well-founded legal framework of conventions to address the problem; a strategy; a field of action; and, since 1991, UNDCP, the body with lead responsibility for coordinating international action against drugs. These are complemented by the United Nations System-Wide Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the ACC agreement in 1995 on the necessity to integrate drug control activities in the work programme of relevant organizations within the United Nations system.

63. Programmes and agencies in the United Nations system have rallied positively to the call for greater involvement, leading to a clear increase in the number of active partners. Based on their mandates and interests, a number of agencies, such as WHO, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, have been active for many years in the demand-reduction side of drug abuse control, while the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization have collaborated in projects targeting supply reduction. A long and close working relationship exists between UNDCP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The close relationship in subject matter between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the United Nations Secretariat is reflected in joint activities and in the definition of strategy, areas in which both bodies are already making constant efforts to collaborate and complement each other in pursuit of common goals.

64. The emerging partnerships and alliances are not limited to funding arrangements or bilateral cooperation between agencies. They often result in multi-agency, multisectoral activities. UNDCP is now participating in the projects of a number of agencies, such as the United Nations Population Fund, the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank, as well as strengthening its ties with its traditional allies. Emphasis is being placed on cooperation at the field level, where a growing number of small-scale, action-oriented interventions are being initiated with other agencies.

65. During its first five years of existence, UNDCP steered a course of action that gave prominence to its catalytic, coordinating and broker roles. The first achievement of UNDCP was to reach a shared understanding with Member States on the priorities in international drug control, namely: adopting a balanced approach in which demand reduction and supply reduction are conceived as mutually reinforcing elements of a multidimensional strategy; promoting comprehensive national drug control plans that are integrated into each country's overall economic and social planning; developing and maintaining international norms and standards for drug control; mobilizing civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse; harmonizing action taken by United Nations agencies and programmes; and promoting cooperative efforts with key United Nations and external partners.

particularly in transferring expert drug control know-how. Those priorities require taking action at three levels: national, subregional and global.

66. The subregional strategy, which embodies a common understanding of and approach to drug control issues shared by the countries concerned, has achieved demonstrable positive results. UNDCP has sponsored subregional initiatives in East Asia, South-west Asia, South America and Eastern Europe. Based on experience to date, the subregional approach has been expanded, and similar agreements are being negotiated with countries in Central Asia, Africa, the Middle East and other parts of South America; such cooperation is designed to be a vehicle to enable Governments to work together, with support from UNDCP, to counter the drug challenge.

67. Another encouraging development has been the increase in the number of States that have adhered to the international drug control treaties, particularly the 1988 Convention. The legal assistance that UNDCP provides to Governments has assisted States not only in becoming parties to those instruments but also to help ensure their implementation. In 1995, direct legal advisory assistance was provided to 19 States, complemented by the convening of national and subregional workshops to train judges and prosecutors. In a similar spirit, UNDCP has been engaged in institution-building efforts that entail working with Governments in the preparation and adoption of national drug control master plans to transform the obligations of the treaties into practical programmes for combating drug abuse. In 1995, UNDCP provided advice and substantive assistance to 28 States in the formulation of national drug control master plans.

68. There has also been strong emphasis on forging a partnership with civil society and developing strong ties with non-governmental organizations. Hence, in the context of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, UNDCP assisted in the convening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum '94 on demand reduction in Bangkok, with participants from over 100 countries. In mobilizing civil society, UNDCP has launched a number of initiatives, including a campaign to use sport as a vehicle for reaching young people, in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee; it is also promoting partnerships with the business world to enhance programmes in the workplace and collaborative schemes with the business community for the prevention of drug abuse.

69. Since its inception, UNDCP has striven with the limited resources available to enhance its capacity as a reliable source of technical expertise and information on illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption; in particular, it has promoted the use of its rapid assessment methodology to help gather both quantitative and qualitative information on drug abuse trends at the national level. In addition, the demand-reduction expert forums, the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, the establishment of an effective mechanism to coordinate assistance to Eastern and Central Europe, the convening of technical consultations on specific themes, the formulation of a regional action plan for the Caribbean and the analytical studies undertaken by UNDCP all reflect the leadership role played by UNDCP at the international level.

C. New challenges

70. In spite of all best efforts to date, new dimensions of the illicit drug threat have emerged at an alarming rate. In many countries, political instability, fragile drug control institutions and the absence of adequate regulatory systems are continuing to undermine the ability of Governments to respond. Most notably, in countries in transition, the new institutions required to fight illicit drugs and related criminal activities have barely emerged. Throughout the world, the vulnerability of administrations has left law enforcement officials, financial authorities and health personnel ill-equipped to confront a problem that is often new to them.

71. Governments must therefore exercise the strongest political will to overcome historical differences or traditional rivalries among the ministries concerned and must truly coordinate all those involved in the prevention of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Institutional capacity to coordinate domestic actions with subregional and regional efforts is essential, and is the basis for effective leadership and coordination at the international level.

72. To consolidate the current achievements, all countries should use the full potential of the 1988 Convention as an instrument of international cooperation in combating drug trafficking. The realization of that full potential will require, inter alia, that all parties implement all provisions of the Convention, particularly the provisions designed to prevent the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals to the illicit manufacture of drugs, assist in adopting effective countermeasures to money-laundering, and enhance cooperation among countries in the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses and in combating drug trafficking by sea.

73. In the area of demand reduction, which is characterized by a broad and, sometimes complex set of approaches and methodologies, the adoption of a declaration setting out the guiding principles of demand reduction would be an important step for the world community.

D. Strengthening the role of the United Nations

74. Following the establishment of UNDCP, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/185 C of 20 December 1991, expanded the mandate of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to enable it to operate as the governing body of UNDCP. In addition to providing policy guidance to UNDCP, the Commission was entrusted with administrative and budgetary functions related to the biennium programme budget of the Fund of UNDCP. The Commission also witnessed an expansion of its membership from 40 to 53 States, which broadened its political base. In performing its policy-making functions, the Commission must sometimes strive to reconcile national concerns with the governance requirements of a multilateral organization with a global mandate. Acting as shareholders of UNDCP, Member States must also ensure that the Commission can fulfil its role as a key forum for concerted action in international drug control, balancing policy recommendations addressed to Member States with decision-making and the guidance provided to UNDCP.

75. From the outset, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs has realized the need for UNDCP to rely on a critical mass of resources that could sustain the ingredients of a high-quality centre of expertise. That realization has been acknowledged by the Commission in a number of resolutions, in which the Commission has urged Member States to increase significantly their general-purpose contributions to enable UNDCP to carry out its specialist and normative functions.

76. At its thirty-ninth session, (Vienna, 16-25 April 1996), the Commission on Narcotic Drugs noted with concern trends showing a general decline in resources allocated to UNDCP from both regular and extrabudgetary sources. Budgetary levels for the biennium 1996-1997 are:

	Millions of United States dollars	Percentage
Regular budget	16.4	9.7
Fund of UNDCP	152.4	90.3
Total	168.8	100.0

Detailed analysis reveals that:

(a) Regular budget resources, mostly allocated for servicing the intergovernmental bodies and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), are being curtailed to comply with the austerity measures imposed by the financial situation of the United Nations, and may be reduced to about US$ 15.3 million in the current biennium;

(b) Seven Governments and the European Commission provide 90 per cent of the total voluntary contributions;

(c) A large proportion of the voluntary contributions is tied to specific technical cooperation activities in the field;

(d) The amount of general-purpose contributions, which was already limited to begin with, decreased significantly during the biennium 1994-1995. That essential source of funding was reduced by US$ 15.3 million, representing a 27 per cent drop compared to 1992-1993 levels, and the downward trend is expected to continue in the current biennium. Furthermore, about 60 per cent of the general-purpose contributions is borne by only three countries: Italy, Japan and Sweden.

77. This inadequate and unevenly shared general-purpose funding is primarily allocated towards expenditure at headquarters and in the field on core mandated activities, and for the management, back-stopping and support of technical cooperation. Such general-purpose resources, however, are not sufficient for UNDCP to maintain and strengthen its capacity as a centre of expertise in order to:

(a) Ensure the availability of higher-quality expertise in the various sectors of drug control;

(b) Provide more solid support and back-stopping of operational activities in the field, including programming, coordination, research, analysis and evaluation;

(c) Provide a credible point of reference for the establishment of a network of expertise available to the international community.

78. In the context of the above analysis, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-ninth session, noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/179 of 11 December 1990, had entrusted UNDCP with an expanded mandate to evolve as the main focus for concerted international action for drug control and to conduct analytical work, research and policy implementation without, however, providing for a system of financing that expanded mandate. Accordingly, the Commission adopted resolution 10 (XXXIX) in which it recognized, inter alia, the need for increasing general-purpose funds from a much broader group of contributing States in support of UNDCP efforts to acquire a profile befitting a global centre of expertise. The Commission also expressed its appreciation for the UNDCP appeal to increase general-purpose contributions by approximately US$ 15 million annually. Documentation made available to the Commission explained that those additional resources would enable UNDCP to increase its capacity to gather, analyse and disseminate data on the reduction of the demand for and supply of illicit drugs. UNDCP could also provide additional expertise for action against money-laundering, the illicit traffic in precursor chemicals, the control of licit drugs and law enforcement. Finally, UNDCP would strengthen its capacity for researching the causes of the drug problem and its economic and social consequences, and for establishing and maintaining collaboration with other centres of expertise.

E. Recommendations

79. Over the years, the international community has become increasingly aware that global problems such as drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking with all their ramifications, require action that the United Nations is ideally suited to take; international drug control is an urgent priority that calls for such solidarity from the international community. Discussions at the high-level segment of the Council, including consideration of the proposal for a special session of the General Assembly, and the review of the United Nations Medium-term Plan for the Period 1998-2001 to be held later in 1996, are fitting occasions for Member States to show their commitment to international drug control and reassert the high priority assigned to the global fight against illicit drugs.

80. A true sense of global ownership of and participation in UNDCP can only be ensured if more countries assume greater responsibility for funding the essential elements of the UNDCP mandate. The Council may therefore wish to recommend that all States in a position to do so implement resolution 10 (XXXIX) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations held its third session at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 23 January 1996 and on 3 May 1996, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/80. The Working Group held five meetings, as well as a number of informal meetings as a drafting group.

B. Agenda and organization of work

2. At its 1st meeting, on 10 January, the Working Group adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document E/AC.70/1996/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. General review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations.

3. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its third session.

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C. Attendance

3. Representatives of the following States attended the session: Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

4. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization also attended the session.

5. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

Category I

American Association of Retired Persons

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

International Council of Women

OISCA-International

Society for International Development

Soroptimist International

World Federation of United Nations Associations

Category II

All India Women's Conference

Amnesty International

Human Rights Internet

International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres

International Service for Human Rights

Lutheran World Federation

National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Services Secretariat

World Federalist Movement

Roster

Canadian Council for International Cooperation (Commission on Sustainable Development)

Third World Network

World Economy, Ecology and Development Association (Commission on Sustainable Development)

6. The following non-governmental organizations were also represented:

Brazilian Institute of Social and Economic Analyses

Carter Center

Citizen's Network for Sustainable Development

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Cordillera Women's Education and Resource Center

Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN)

German Non-Governmental Organization Forum on Environment and Development

Instituto del Tercer Mundo (Third World Network)

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre

United Nations Environment and Development UK Committee

D. Documentation

7. The Working Group had before it the following documents:

(a) Annotated provisional agenda (E/AC.70/1996/1);

(b) Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations on its second session: compilation of proposals (E/1995/83/Add.1);

(c) Statement submitted by the World Federation of United Nations Associations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I (E/AC.70/1996/NGO/1);

(d) Statement submitted by World Wide Fund for Nature International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I); Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights, Habitat International Coalition, International Commission of Jurists, International Service for Human Rights, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation, OXFAM (United Kingdom and Ireland), Service, Justice and Peace in Latin America, and World Student Christian Federation, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category II); and

Asian Cultural Forum on Development, International Movement Against Racism and Racial Discrimination, and Women's Environment and Development Organization, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (Roster) (E/AC.70/1996/NGO/2).

II. GENERAL REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

8. The Working Group considered agenda item 2 at its 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 10, 16, 19 and 23 January 1996.

9. At the 1st meeting, on 10 January, Ambassador Jean-Marie Kacou Gervais (Côte d'Ivoire), Vice-President of the Council and Chairman of the informal consultations, made an introductory statement.

10. At the same meeting, statements were also made by two non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category II), the Lutheran World Federation and the International Service for Human Rights.

11. At the 2nd meeting, on 16 January, the representative of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council made a statement.

12. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: World Federation of United Nations Associations and International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (category I); and World Federalist Movement (category II).

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development: Cordillera Women's Education and Resource Center, Instituto del Tercer Mundo, and Pacific Concerns Resource Centre.

14. At the 3rd meeting, on 19 January, the Chairman of the informal consultations reported on the status of consultations in the drafting group.

15. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: OISCA-Internaticnal and Soroptimist International (category I); International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres (category II); and Brazilian Institute of Social and Economic Analyses (Roster).

16. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN), a non-governmental organization accredited to the World Summit for Social Development.

17. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Working Group made a statement.

18. At the 4th meeting, on 23 January, the Chairman of the informal consultations reported on their status in the drafting group.

19. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Working Group made a statement.

20. Subsequently, statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and of China), Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Japan, Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic.

21. Statements were also made by the Director of the Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs of the Secretariat and by the Secretary of the Council.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ITS THIRD SESSION

22. At its 4th meeting, on 23 January, the Working Group adopted the draft report (E/AC.70/1996/L.1).

23. At the same meeting, the observer for the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) made a statement.

24. At the 5th meeting, on 3 May, the Chairman of the Working Group made a statement.

25. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the Russian Federation, Cuba, Mexico, the Philippines, India, Italy (on behalf of the European Union), Côte d'Ivoire, the Syrian Arab Republic, Kenya, the Netherlands, China, the Sudan, Canada, the Republic of Korea, Algeria, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the United States of America and Pakistan.

26. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, made a statement and responded to questions raised.

27. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Working Group adopted the following oral decision:

> The Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations decides to transmit a text (see annex) reflecting the current status of negotiations to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996. The Working Group further agrees that the entire results of its work will be transmitted on an ad referendum basis.

28. After the adoption of the decision, the representative of the Sudan made a statement.

Annex

CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS 1/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 1993/80 of 30 July 1993, in which it requested a general review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, with a view to updating, if necessary, Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, as well as introducing coherence in the rules governing the participation of non-governmental organizations in international conferences convened by the United Nations, and also an examination of ways and means of improving practical arrangements for the work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and the Non-Governmental Organization Section of the Secretariat,

Recalling also its decision 1995/304 of 26 July 1995,

Confirming the need to take into account the full diversity of the non-governmental organizations at the national, regional and international levels,

Acknowledging the breadth of non-governmental organizations' expertise and the capacity of non-governmental organizations to support the work of the United Nations,

Taking into account the changes in the non-governmental sector, including the emergence of a large number of national and regional organizations,

Calling upon the governing bodies of the relevant organizations, bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to examine the principles and practices relating to their consultations with non-governmental organizations and to take action, as appropriate, to promote coherence in the light of the provisions of the present resolution,

Approves the following update to the arrangements set out in its resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968:

1/ The present text reflects the status of negotiations as of 3 May 1996. Pending text is in boldface.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Part I

PRINCIPLES TO BE APPLIED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF CONSULTATIVE RELATIONS

The following principles shall be applied in establishing consultative relations with non-governmental organizations:

1. The organization shall be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies with respect to international economic, social, environmental, cultural, educational, health, scientific, technological and related matters and to humanitarian and human rights questions.

1.1. The whole United Nations system, including United Nations bodies and conferences, dealing not only with economic, social, and sustained economic growth and sustainable development issues but also with disarmament, finance, trade, law, humanitarian issues and human rights questions, should be open to participation by non-governmental organizations.

2. The aims and purposes of the organization shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. The organization shall undertake to support the work of the United Nations and to promote knowledge of its principles and activities, in accordance with its own aims and purposes and the nature and scope of its competence and activities.

3.1. Except where expressly stated otherwise, the term organization will refer to non-governmental organizations at the national, subregional, regional or international levels.

3.2. Consultative relationships may be established with international, regional, subregional and national organizations, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and criteria established under the present resolution. The Committee, in considering applications for consultative status, should ensure, to the extent possible, participation of non-governmental organizations from all regions, and particularly from developing countries, in order to help achieve a just, balanced, effective and genuine involvement of non-governmental organizations from all regions and areas of the world. The Committee shall also pay particular attention to non-governmental organizations which have special expertise or experience upon which the Council may wish to draw.

3.3. Greater participation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries in international conferences convened by the United Nations should be encouraged.

3.3 bis. Greater involvement of non-governmental organizations from countries with economies in transition should be encouraged.

3.4. Regional, subregional and national organizations, including those affiliated to an international organization already in status, may be admitted provided that they can demonstrate that their programme of work is of direct relevance to the aims and purposes of the United Nations and, in the case of national organizations, after consultation with the Member State concerned. The views expressed by the Member State, if any, shall be communicated to the non-governmental organization concerned, which shall have the opportunity to respond to those views through the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

4. The organization shall be of recognized standing within the particular field of its competence or of a representative character. Where there exist a number of organizations with similar objectives, interests and basic views in a given field, they may, for the purposes of consultation with the Council, form a joint committee or other body authorized to carry on such consultation for the group as a whole.

5. The organization shall have an established headquarters, with an executive officer. It shall have a democratically adopted constitution. a copy of which shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and which shall provide for the determination of policy by a conference, congress or other representative body, and for an executive organ responsible to the policy-making body.

6. The organization shall have authority to speak for its members through its authorized representatives. Evidence of this authority shall be presented, if requested.

7. The organization shall have a representative structure and possess appropriate mechanisms of accountability to its members, who shall exercise effective control over its policies and actions through the exercise of voting rights or other appropriate democratic and transparent decision-making processes. Any such organization which is not established by a governmental entity or intergovernmental agreement shall be considered as a non-governmental organization for the purpose of these arrangements, including organizations which accept members designated by governmental authorities, provided that such membership does not interfere with the free expression of views of the organization.

8. The basic resources of the organization shall be derived in the main part from contributions of the national affiliates or other components or from individual members. Where voluntary contributions have been received, their amounts and donors shall be faithfully revealed to the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. Where, however, the above criterion is not fulfilled and an organization is financed from other sources, it must explain to the satisfaction of the Committee its reasons for not meeting the requirements laid down in this paragraph. Any financial contribution or other support, direct or indirect, from a Government to the organization shall be openly declared to the Committee through the Secretary-General and fully recorded in

the financial and other records of the organization and shall be devoted to purposes in accordance with the aims of the United Nations.

9. Deleted. Alternatives #1 and #2 in E/1995/83/Add.1 also deleted.

10. Deleted.

11. In considering the establishment of consultative relations with a non-governmental organization, the Council will take into account whether the field of activity of the organization is wholly or mainly within the field of a specialized agency, and whether or not it could be admitted when it has, or may have, a consultative arrangement with a specialized agency.

11.1. The granting, suspension and withdrawal of consultative status, as well as the interpretation of norms and decisions relating to this matter, are the prerogative of Member States exercised through the Economic and Social Council and its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. A non-governmental organization applying for general or special consultative status or a listing on the Roster shall have the opportunity to respond to any objections being raised in the Committee before the Committee takes its decision.

11.2. The provisions of the present resolution shall apply to the United Nations regional commissions and their subsidiary bodies mutatis mutandis.

11.3. Deleted.

11.4. Reflected as the last preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

11.5. In recognizing the evolving relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, will consider reviewing the consultative arrangements as and when necessary to facilitate, in the most effective manner possible, the contributions of non-governmental organizations to the work of the United Nations.

Part II

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE NATURE OF THE CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

12. A clear distinction is drawn in the Charter of the United Nations between participation without vote in the deliberations of the Council and the arrangements for consultation. Under Articles 69 and 70, participation is provided for only in the case of States not members of the Council, and of specialized agencies. Article 71, applying to non-governmental organizations, provides for suitable arrangements for consultation. This distinction, deliberately made in the Charter, is fundamental and the arrangements for consultation should not be such as to accord to non-governmental organizations the same rights of participation as are accorded to States not members of the Council and to the specialized agencies brought into relationship with the United Nations.

13. The arrangements should not be such as to overburden the Council or transform it from a body for coordination of policy and action, as contemplated in the Charter, into a general forum for discussion.

14. Decisions on arrangements for consultation should be guided by the principle that consultative arrangements are to be made, on the one hand, for the purpose of enabling the Council or one of its bodies to secure expert information or advice from organizations having special competence in the subjects for which consultative arrangements are made, and, on the other hand, to enable international, regional, subregional and national organizations which represent important elements of public opinion to express their views. Therefore, the arrangements for consultation made with each organization should relate to the subjects for which that organization has a special competence or in which it has a special interest. The organizations given consultative status should be limited to those whose activities in fields set out in paragraph 1 above qualify them to make a significant contribution to the work of the Council and should, in sum, as far as possible reflect in a balanced way the major viewpoints or interests in these fields in all areas and regions of the world.

Part III

ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

15. In establishing consultative relationships with each organization, regard shall be had to the nature and scope of its activities and to the assistance it may be expected to give to the Council or its subsidiary bodies in carrying out the functions set out in Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations.

16. In establishing consultative relations with organizations, the Council will distinguish between:

(a) Organizations which are concerned with most of the activities of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Council that they have substantive and sustained contributions to make to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations in the fields as set out in paragraph 1 above, and are closely involved with the economic and social life of the peoples of the areas they represent and whose membership, which should be considerable, is broadly representative of major segments of society in a large number of countries in different regions of the world (to be known as organizations in general consultative status);

(b) Organizations which have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity covered by the Council and its subsidiary bodies, and which are known within the fields for which they have or seek consultative status (to be known as organizations in special consultative status).

17. Organizations accorded special consultative status because of their interest in the field of human rights and humanitarian assistance should have a general international concern with this matter, not restricted to the interests

of a particular group of persons, a single nationality or the situation in a single State or restricted group of States. Special consideration shall be given to the applications of organizations in this field whose aims place stress on combating colonialism, xenophobia, racism, racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing and other gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. (G-77)

- Australia/US propose deleting paragraph 17 of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) and the proposed alternatives to it.

- EU withdraws its proposal (Alternative #1 in E/1995/83/Add.1) and supports the Australian/US proposal.

18. Major organizations one of whose primary purposes is to promote the aims, objectives and purposes of the United Nations and a furtherance of the understanding of its work may be accorded consultative status.

19. Other organizations which do not have general or special consultative status but which the Council, or the Secretary-General of the United Nations in consultation with the Council or its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, considers can make occasional and useful contributions to the work of the Council or its subsidiary bodies or other United Nations bodies within their competence shall be included in a list (to be known as the Roster). This list may also include organizations in consultative status or similar relationship with a specialized agency or a United Nations body. These organizations shall be available for consultation at the request of the Council or its subsidiary bodies. The fact that an organization is on the Roster shall not in itself be regarded as a qualification for general or special consultative status should an organization seek such status.

Part IV

CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL

Provisional agenda

20. The provisional agenda of the Council shall be communicated to organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status and to those on the Roster.

21. Organizations in general consultative status may propose to the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations that the Committee request the Secretary-General to place items of special interest to the organizations on the provisional agenda of the Council.

Attendance at meetings

22. Organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. Those on the Roster may have

representatives present at such meetings concerned with matters within their field of competence. These attendance arrangements may be supplemented to include other modalities of participation.

Written statements

23. Written statements relevant to the work of the Council may be submitted by organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status on subjects in which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the members of the Council, except those statements which have become obsolete, for example, those dealing with matters already disposed of and those which had already been circulated in some other form.

24. The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages.

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Secretary-General and the organization before circulation.

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Secretary-General may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form.

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organizations shall submit a summary which will be circulated or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon a specific request of the Council or its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

Alternative #2: Australia/Canada propose inserting "or special consultative status" before "will be circulated in full" in the first sentence. **PENDING**

Alternative #3: G-77 proposes retaining the text of subparagraph (d) of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), leaving the number of words to be determined. **PENDING**

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status or on the Roster will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 500 words, the organization shall submit a summary which will be circulated; such statements will be circulated in full, however, upon

a specific request of the Council or its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

Alternative #2: Australia/Canada propose deleting "in special consultative status or" in the first sentence. **PENDING**

Alternative #3: G-77 proposes retaining the text of subparagraph (e) of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), leaving the number of words to be determined. **PENDING**

(f) The Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the Council, or the Council or its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) above shall apply to such statements.

Alternative #1: Australia/Canada propose deleting subparagraph 24 (f) of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), provided subparagraph 24 (e) covers the non-governmental organizations on the Roster. **PENDING**

Alternative #2: The Secretary-General, in consultation and with the approval of the Bureau of the Council, or the Council or its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) above shall apply to such statements. (G-77) **PENDING**

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Secretary-General in the working languages, and, upon the request of a member of the Council, in any of the official languages.

Oral presentations during meetings

25. (a) The Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall make recommendations to the Council as to which organizations in general consultative status should make an oral presentation to the Council and on which items they should be heard. Such organizations shall be entitled to make one statement to the Council, subject to the approval of the Council. In the absence of a subsidiary body of the Council with jurisdiction in a major field of interest to the Council and to organizations in general consultative status, the Committee may recommend that organizations in general consultative status be heard by the Council on the subject in its field of interest.

(b) Whenever the Council discusses the substance of an item proposed by a non-governmental organization in general consultative status and included in the agenda of the Council, such an organization shall be entitled to present orally to the Council, as appropriate, an introductory statement of an expository nature. Such an organization may be invited by the President of the Council, with the consent of the relevant body, to make, in the course of the discussion of the

item before the Council, an additional statement for purposes of clarification.

Part V

CONSULTATION WITH COMMISSIONS AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE COUNCIL

Provisional agenda

26. The provisional agenda of sessions of commissions and other subsidiary organs of the Council shall be communicated to organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status and those on the Roster.

27. Organizations in general consultative status may propose items for the provisional agenda of commissions, subject to the following conditions:

Alternative #2 to the introductory sentence: Australia/Canada propose inserting "and special consultative status" before "may propose items". **PENDING**

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments the Secretary-General may make.

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not later than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the commission if it is adopted by a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

Attendance at meetings

28. Organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the commissions and other subsidiary organs of the Council. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence. These attendance arrangements may be supplemented to include other modalities of participation.

Written statements

29. Written statements relevant to the work of the commissions or other subsidiary organs may be submitted by organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Secretary-General to members of the commission or other subsidiary organs,

except those statements which have become obsolete, for example, those dealing with matters already disposed of and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members of the commission or other subsidiary organs.

Alternative #2: Australia/Canada propose inserting "by organizations in general consultative status, special consultative status and those on the Roster" after "may be submitted" in the first sentence. **PENDING**

Alternative #3: **DELETED** (as per "Understanding" of 28 February 1996). [Japan/US/Russian Federation propose inserting "Subject to available resources" at the beginning of the second sentence.]

30. The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages.

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Secretary-General and the organization before circulation.

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Secretary-General may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form.

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the commission or other subsidiary organs.

Alternative #2: Australia/Canada propose inserting "and special consultative status" before "will be circulated" in the first sentence. **PENDING**

Alternative #3: G-77 proposes leaving the number of words to be determined. **PENDING**

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the commission or other subsidiary organs.

Alternative #2: Australia/Canada propose inserting "or on the Roster" before "will be circulated" **PENDING**

(f) The Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the relevant commission or other subsidiary organ, or the commission or other subsidiary organ itself, may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) above shall apply to such statements.

Alternative #1: Australia/Canada propose deleting subparagraph 30 (f) of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), provided that subparagraph 30 (e) covers non-governmental organizations on the Roster. **PENDING**

Alternative #2: The Secretary-General, in consultation and with the approval of the Bureau of the relevant commission or other subsidiary organ, or the commission or other subsidiary organ itself, may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) above shall apply to such statements. (G-77) **PENDING**

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Secretary-General in the working languages and, upon the request of a member of the commission or other subsidiary organ, in any of the official languages.

Oral presentations during meetings

31. (a) The commission or other subsidiary organs may consult with organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization.

Alternative #2: **DELETED**. [The original read as follows: "Canada proposes replacing 'may' by 'shall normally' in the first sentence."]

Alternative #3: Australia/Canada propose inserting "and those on the Roster" before "either directly" in the first sentence. **PENDING**

(b) On the recommendation of the Secretary-General and at the request of the commission or other subsidiary organs, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the commission or other subsidiary organs.

Australia/Canada propose deleting subparagraph (b) provided subparagraph (a) is amended. **PENDING**

Special studies

32. Subject to the relevant rules of procedure on financial implications, a commission or other subsidiary organ may recommend that an organization which

has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the commission. The limitations of paragraphs 30 (d) and (e) above shall not apply in this case.

Part VI

CONSULTATIONS WITH AD HOC COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

33. The arrangements for consultation between ad hoc committees of the Council authorized to meet between sessions of the Council and organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status and on the Roster shall follow those approved for commissions of the Council, unless the Council or the committee decides otherwise.

Part VII

PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES CONVENED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THEIR PREPARATORY PROCESS

New paragraph:

Where non-governmental organizations have been invited to participate in an international conference convened by the United Nations, their accreditation is the prerogative of Member States, exercised through the respective preparatory committee. Such accreditation should be preceded by an appropriate process to determine their eligibility.

The rules for non-governmental participation in all international conferences convened by the United Nations should have an overall general framework. Non-governmental organisations should participate in United Nations conferences dealing not only with economic, social, and sustained economic growth and sustainable development issues but also those dealing with disarmament, finance, trade, law, humanitarian issues and human rights questions. (G-77)

34. Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, special consultative status and on the Roster which express their wish to attend the international conferences convened by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and the meetings of the preparatory bodies of said conferences, shall be accredited for participation. Other non-governmental organizations wishing to be accredited may apply to the secretariat of the conference for this purpose in accordance with the following requirements.

- **G-77 proposes deleting the phrase "in the economic, social and related fields" so as to bring the text in line with the title of Part VII.**

- **EU proposes retaining the text as is.**

- **Russian Federation proposes:**

Under Articles 62 and 71 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council may invite non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, special consultative status and on the Roster which express their wish to attend the international conferences convened by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. Due to their established consultative relations with the Council, these organizations shall be accredited for participation. Other non-governmental organizations wishing to be accredited may apply to the secretariat of the conference for this purpose in accordance with the following requirements.

34.1. The secretariat of the conference shall be responsible for the receipt and preliminary evaluation of requests from non-governmental organizations for accreditation to the conference and its preparatory process. In the discharge of its functions, the secretariat of the conference shall work in close cooperation and coordination with the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat, and shall be guided by the relevant provisions of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) as updated.

34.2. All such applications must be accompanied by information on the competence of the organization and the relevance of its activities to the work of the conference and its preparatory committee, with an indication of the particular areas of the conference agenda and preparations to which such competence and relevance pertain, and should include, inter alia, the following information:

(a) The purpose of the organization;

(b) Information as to the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the conference and its preparatory process and the country or countries in which they are carried out. Non-governmental organizations seeking accreditation shall be asked to confirm their interest in the goals and objectives of the conference;

(c) Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international level;

(d) Copies of the annual or other reports of the organization with financial statements, and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;

(e) A list of members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality;

(f) A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations which are members and their geographical distribution;

(g) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization.

34.3. In the evaluation of the relevance of applications of non-governmental organizations for accreditation to the conference and its preparatory process,

it is agreed that a determination will be made based on their background and involvement in the subject areas of the conference.

34.4. The secretariat shall publish and disseminate to Member States on a periodic basis the updated list of applications received. Member States may submit comments on any of the applications on the list fourteen days from receipt of the above-mentioned list by Member States. The comments of Member States shall be communicated to the non-governmental organization concerned, which shall have the opportunity to respond.

34.5. In cases where the secretariat believes, on the basis of the information provided in accordance with the present resolution, that the organization has established its competence and the relevance of its activities to the work of the preparatory committee, it will recommend to the preparatory committee that the organization be accredited. In cases where the secretariat does not recommend the granting of accreditation, it will make available to the preparatory committee its reasons for not doing so. The secretariat should ensure that its recommendations are available to members of the preparatory committee at least one week prior to the start of each session. The secretariat must notify such applicants of the reasons for non-recommendation and provide an opportunity to respond to objections and furnish additional information as may be required.

34.6. The preparatory committee will decide on all recommendations for accreditation within twenty-four hours after the recommendations of the secretariat have been taken up by the preparatory committee in plenary meeting. In the event of a decision not being taken within this period, interim accreditation shall be accorded until such time as a decision is taken.

34.7. The final decision on application upon which commentaries have been received may be based on the conclusions made by an open-ended working group established for this purpose by the preparatory committee, if deemed necessary. Interim accreditation may not be accorded in these cases.

34.8. A non-governmental organization that has been granted accreditation to attend a session of the preparatory committee, including related preparatory meetings of regional commissions, may attend all its future sessions, as well as the conference itself.

34.9. In recognition of the intergovernmental nature of the conference, non-governmental organizations shall have no negotiating role in the work of the conference and its preparatory process.

- Russian Federation proposes deleting this paragraph.

- G-77 proposes retaining the paragraph and adding "whose contributions are highly welcomed" between the words "organizations" and "shall".

- EU agrees with the proposal to delete this paragraph but also suggests, in the spirit of compromise, the following text: **The conference and its preparatory process are of an intergovernmental nature, and active participation of non-governmental organizations**

therein, while welcome, does not entail a direct negotiating role for non-governmental organizations in this process.

34.10. The non-governmental organizations accredited to the international conference may be given, in accordance with established United Nations practice and at the discretion of the chairperson and the consent of the body concerned, an opportunity to briefly address the preparatory committee and the conference in plenary meetings and their subsidiary bodies.

34.11. Non-governmental organizations accredited to the conference may make written presentations during the preparatory process in the official languages of the United Nations as they deem appropriate. Those written presentations will not be issued as official documents except in accordance with United Nations rules of procedure.

34.12. Non-governmental organizations without consultative status that participate in international conferences and wish to obtain consultative status later on should apply through the normal procedures established under Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) as updated. Recognizing the importance of the participation of non-governmental organizations that attend a conference in the follow-up process, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, in considering their application, shall draw upon the documents already submitted by that organization for accreditation to the conference and any additional information submitted by the non-governmental organization supporting its interest, relevance and capacity to contribute to the implementation phase. The Committee shall review such applications as expeditiously as possible so as to allow participation of the respective organization in the implementation phase of the conference. In the interim, the Economic and Social Council shall decide on the participation of non-governmental organizations accredited to an international conference in the work of the relevant functional commission on the follow-up to and implementation of that conference.

34.13. The suspension and withdrawal of the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to **the relevant** United Nations international conferences at all stages shall be guided by the relevant provisions of the present resolution. (previously paragraph 38.1)

Part VIII

SUSPENSION AND WITHDRAWAL OF CONSULTATIVE STATUS

35. Organizations granted consultative status by the Council and those on the Roster shall conform at all times to the principles governing the establishment and nature of their consultative relations with the Council. In periodically reviewing the activities of non-governmental organizations on the basis of the reports submitted under paragraph 40 (b) below and other relevant information, the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall determine the extent to which the organizations have complied with the principles governing consultative status and have contributed to the work of the Council, and may recommend to the Council suspension or exclusion from consultative status of

organizations which have not met the requirements for consultative status as set forth in the present resolution.

35.1. In cases where the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations has decided to recommend that the general or special consultative status of a non-governmental organization or its listing on the Roster be suspended or withdrawn, the non-governmental organization concerned shall be given written reasons for that decision and shall have an opportunity to present its response for appropriate consideration by the Committee as expeditiously as possible.

- Russian Federation expresses reservations on this paragraph.

36. The consultative status of non-governmental organizations with the Economic and Social Council and the listing of those on the Roster shall be suspended up to three years or withdrawn in the following cases:

(a) G-77 proposes:

If there exists substantiated evidence of overt and covert governmental financial influence or otherwise to induce an organization to undertake acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, or substantiated evidence of influence from proceeds resulting from criminal activities, such as the illicit drugs trade, money laundering or the illegal arms trade;

EU proposes:

If there exists substantiated evidence of secret governmental financial influence or substantiated evidence of influence from proceeds of criminal activities, such as the illicit drugs trade, money laundering or the illegal arms trade, to induce an organization to undertake acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) If the organization clearly abuses its consultative status by systematically engaging in unsubstantiated or politically motivated acts against States Members of the United Nations contrary to and incompatible with the principles of the Charter;

- EU suggests utilizing paragraph 36 (b) of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) and adding to it the underlined text below:

If the organization clearly abuses its consultative status by systematically engaging in unsubstantiated or politically motivated acts against States Members of the United Nations contrary to and incompatible with the principles of the Charter <u>or extends these rights and privileges to another organization which engages systematically in such activities</u>;

- G-77 proposes utilizing paragraph 36 (b) of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) and adding to it the underlined text below:

If the organization clearly abuses its consultative status by systematically engaging in unsubstantiated or politically motivated acts against States Members of the United Nations contrary to and incompatible with the principles of the Charter or extends the rights and privileges to other organizations and groups which engage in such activities;

(c) If, within the preceding three years, an organization had not made any positive or effective contribution to the work of the United Nations and, in particular, of the Council or its commissions or other subsidiary organs;

(d) (NEW) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council shall be suspended or withdrawn if the organization extends its rights and privileges to individuals or groups whose activities run contrary to the principles governing the granting of consultative status by the Economic and Social Council or are not in full conformity with the principles governing the nature of consultative arrangements. (G-77)

(e) (NEW) If organizations are not committed to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations through misuse of the privileges of non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. (G-77)

37. The consultative status of organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status and the listing of those on the Roster will be suspended or withdrawn by the decision of the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

38. An organization whose consultative status or whose listing on the Roster is withdrawn may be entitled to reapply for consultative status or for inclusion on the Roster not sooner than three years after the effective date of such withdrawal.

38.1. Paragraph moved to Part VII (para. 34.13).

Part IX

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

39. The members of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall be elected by the Council on the basis of equitable geographical representation, in accordance with the relevant Council resolutions 2/ and rules of procedure of

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2/ Council resolutions 1099 (XL) and 1981/50 and Council decision 1995/304.

the Council. 3/ The Committee shall elect its Chairman and other officers as necessary.

40. The functions of the Committee shall include the following:

One new subparagraph as follows:

The Committee shall be responsible for regular monitoring of the evolving relationship between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations. With a view to fulfilling this responsibility, the Committee shall hold, before each of its sessions, and at other times as necessary, consultations with organizations in consultative status to discuss questions of interest to the Committee or to the organizations relating to the relationship between the non-governmental organizations and the United Nations. A report on such consultations will be transmitted to the Council for appropriate action.

(a) The Committee shall hold its regular session before the substantive session of the Council each year and preferably before the meetings of functional commissions of the Council to consider applications for general consultative status and special consultative status and for listing on the Roster made by non-governmental organizations and requests for changes in status, and to make recommendations thereon to the Council. Upon approval by the Council, the Committee may hold other meetings as required to fulfil its mandated responsibilities. Organizations shall give due consideration to any comments on technical matters which the Secretary-General of the United Nations may make in receiving such applications for the Committee. The Committee shall consider at each such session applications received by the Secretary-General at least six months before the regular session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, on which sufficient data have been distributed to the members of the Committee not later than six weeks before the applications are to be considered. Reapplication by an organization for status, or a request for a change in status, shall be considered by the Committee at the earliest at its first session in the second year following the session at which the substance of the previous application or request was considered, unless at the time of such consideration it was decided otherwise.

(b) Organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status shall submit to the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations through the Secretary-General every fourth year a brief report of their activities, specifically as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations. Based on findings of the Committee's examination of the report and other relevant information, the Committee may recommend to the Council any reclassification in status of the organization concerned as it deems appropriate. However, under exceptional circumstances, the Committee

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3/ Rule 80 of the rules of procedure of the Council.

may ask for such a report from an individual organization in general consultative status or special consultative status or on the Roster, between the regular reporting dates.

(c) The Committee may consult, in connection with sessions of the Council or at such other times as it may decide, with organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status on matters within their competence, other than items on the agenda of the Council, on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultation. The Committee shall report to the Council on such consultations.

(d) The Committee may consult, in connection with any particular session of the Council, with organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status on matters within the competence of the organizations concerning specific items already on the provisional agenda of the Council on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultation, and shall make recommendations as to which organizations, subject to the provisions of paragraph 25 (a) above, should be heard by the Council or the appropriate committee and regarding which subjects should be heard. The Committee shall report to the Council on such consultations.

(e) The Committee shall consider matters concerning non-governmental organizations which may be referred to it by the Council or by commissions.

(f) The Committee shall consult with the Secretary-General, as appropriate, on matters affecting the consultative arrangements under Article 71 of the Charter, and arising therefrom.

(f.1) An organization which applies for consultative status should justify that it has been in existence for at least two years as at the date of receipt of the application by the Secretariat. Evidence of such existence shall be furnished to the Secretariat.

(f.2) **DELETED** (as per "Understanding" of 28 February 1996). [The original read as follows: "The Committee may organize panel discussions, hearings, seminars and invite experts for testimony on current and emerging issues relevant to the work of the United Nations."]

(f.3) **DELETED** (as per "Understanding" of 28 February 1996). [The original read as follows: "The Committee may hold theme-oriented meetings with the participation of concerned NGOs with a view to enhancing their contribution to the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies on the full range of their activities including policy analysis, advocacy and operational collaboration."]

41. The Committee, in considering a request from a non-governmental organization in general consultative status that an item be placed on the agenda of the Council, shall take into account, among other things:

(a) The adequacy of the documentation submitted by the organization;

(b) The extent to which it is considered that the item lends itself to early and constructive action by the Council;

(c) The possibility that the item might be more appropriately dealt with elsewhere than in the Council.

42. Any decision by the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations not to grant a request submitted by a non-governmental organization in general consultative status that an item be placed on the provisional agenda of the Council shall be considered as final unless the Council decides otherwise.

Part X

CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARIAT

43. The Secretariat should be so organized as to enable it to carry out the duties assigned to it concerning the consultative arrangements and the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to United Nations international conferences as set forth in the present resolution.

44. All organizations in consultative relationship shall be able to consult with officers of the appropriate sections of the Secretariat on matters in which there is a mutual interest or a mutual concern. Such consultation shall be upon the request of the non-governmental organization or upon the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

45. The Secretary-General may request organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status and those on the Roster to carry out specific studies or prepare specific papers, subject to the relevant financial regulations.

46. The Secretary-General shall be authorized, within the means at his disposal, to offer to non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship facilities which include:

(a) Prompt and efficient distribution of such documents of the Council and its subsidiary bodies as shall in the judgement of the Secretary-General be appropriate;

(b) Access to the press documentation services provided by the United Nations;

(c) Arrangement of informal discussions on matters of special interest to groups or organizations;

(d) Use of the libraries of the United Nations;

(e) Provision of accommodation for conferences or smaller meetings of consultative organizations on the work of the Economic and Social Council;

(f) Appropriate seating arrangements and facilities for obtaining documents during public meetings of the General Assembly dealing with matters in the economic, social and related fields.

Part XI

SECRETARIAT SUPPORT

46.1. Adequate Secretariat support will be required to fulfil the mandate defined for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to carry out the wider range of activities in which the enhanced involvement of non-governmental organizations is envisaged. The Secretary-General is requested to provide the necessary resources for this purpose and to take steps for improving the coordination within the Secretariat of units dealing with non-governmental organizations.

46.2. The Secretary-General is requested to make every effort, including greater use of modern information and communication technology, to improve practical arrangements on such matters as wide and timely dissemination of information on meetings, distribution of documentation, provision of access and transparent, simple and streamlined procedures for the attendance of non-governmental organizations in United Nations meetings and to facilitate their broad-based participation.

46.3. G-77 proposes:

Member States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and others in a position to do so, are encouraged to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries in conferences convened by the United Nations, and their follow-up processes, by supporting and making full use of the existing mechanism of the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS), and creating new mechanisms.

Canada proposes:

Encourages Governments to make full use of existing mechanisms to support the participation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries in conferences convened by the United Nations.

Japan proposes:

When the participation of non-governmental organizations is deemed quite important for the particular meeting or conference in the economic, social and related fields, it may be recommended that a voluntary/extrabudgetary fund be created for that meeting or conference to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations particularly from developing countries with clear terms of reference and after taking the appropriate procedures.

- EU supports the Canadian proposal and proposes moving the paragraph to Part VII.

- Russian Federation proposes adding "and countries with economies in transition" before "in conferences" within the Canadian proposal, or replacing the word "developing" with "less developed" and proposes moving the paragraph to Part VII.

- US supports the Canadian proposal and proposes moving the paragraph to Part VII.

46.4. The Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat should be **strengthened/enhanced** through, inter alia, the establishment of an integrated database of non-governmental organizations.

- US proposes adding "within existing resources" at the beginning of the paragraph.

- EU proposes the possible deletion of this paragraph.

46.5. The Secretary-General is requested to make this resolution widely known, through proper channels, to facilitate the involvement of non-governmental organizations from all regions and areas of the world.